

## TANSEN

From imitating animal sounds to igniting a fire with his song – Tansen's genius was unmatched. His voice was so much in demand that wily patrons used it to gain political advantage. Such a talent could win loyal friends and a beautiful wife, but it could also make others viciously jealous. In Emperor Akbar's court, he was a jewel more precious than the diamonds and pearls that were showered on him, and he remains to this day a shining symbol of classical Indian music.

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VISIONARIES



# TANSEN

THE MUSICAL GEM

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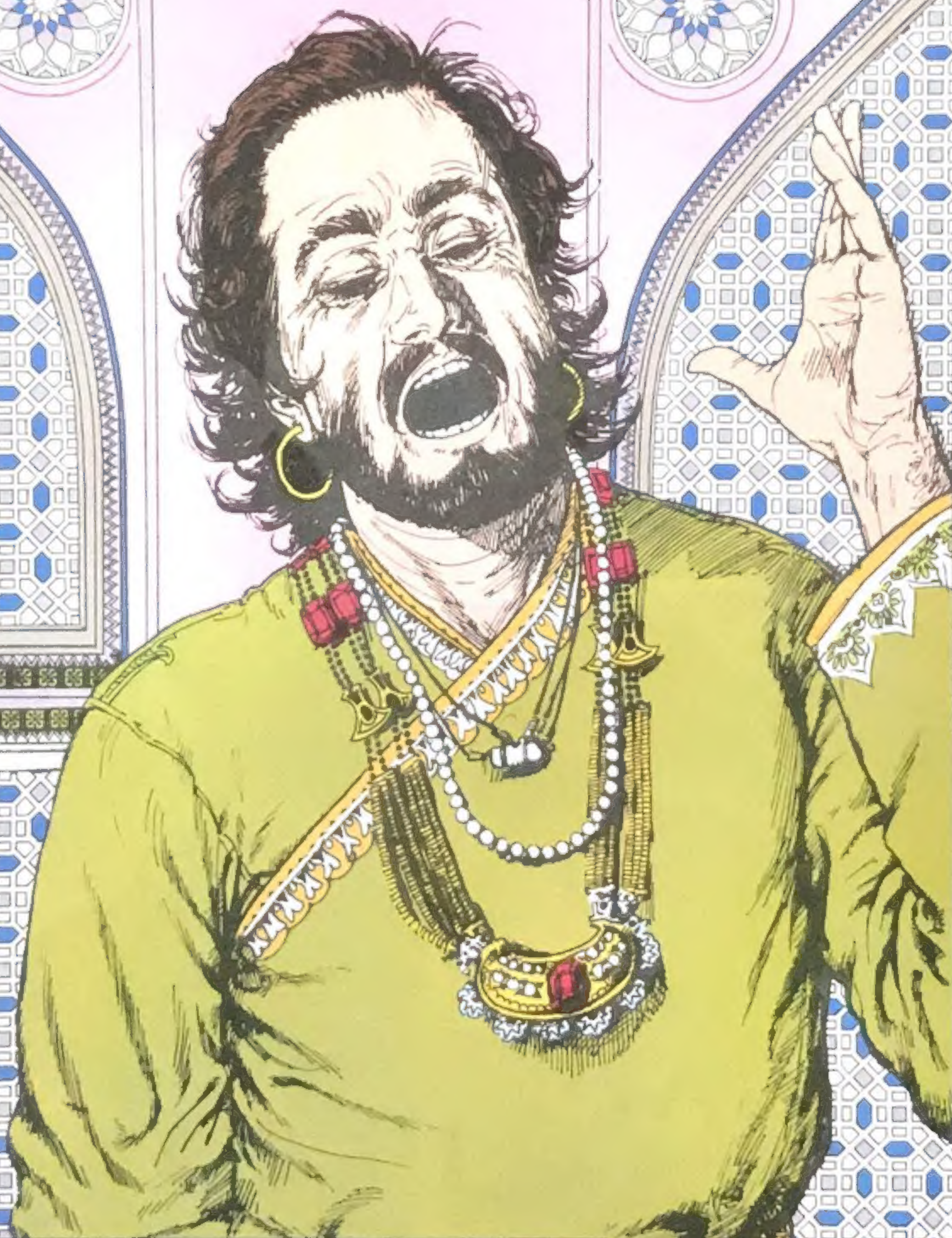
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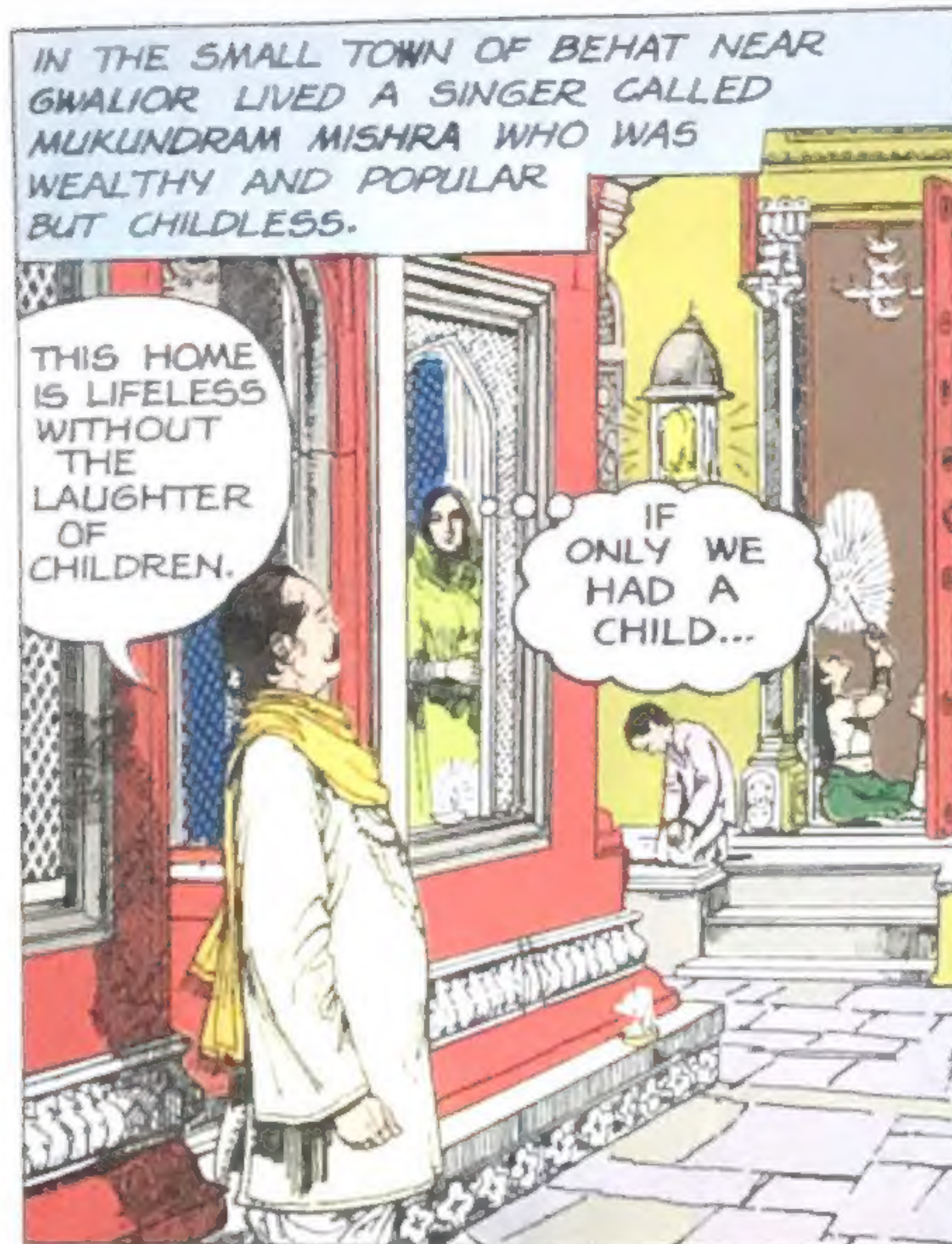


# TANSEN



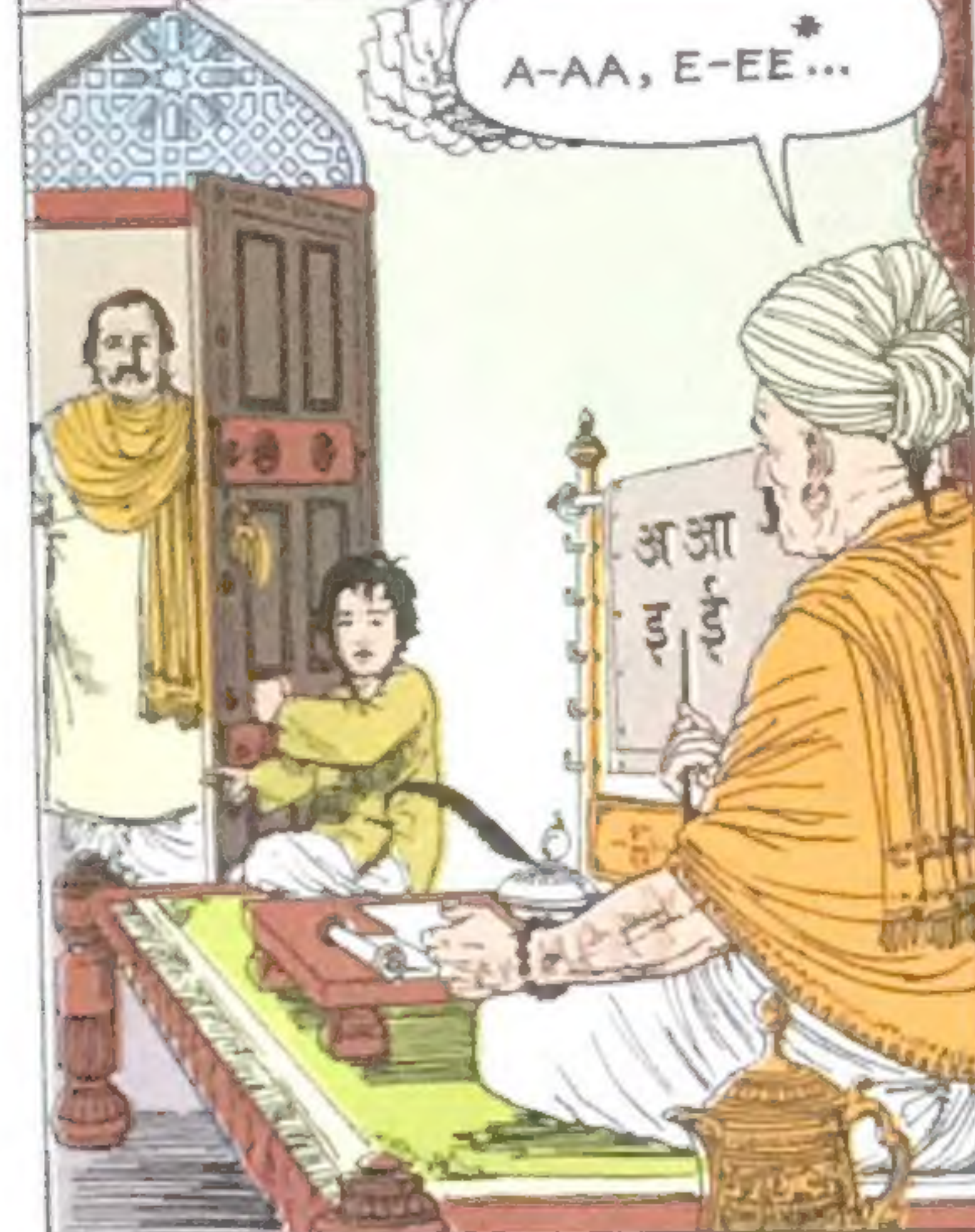
TANSEN IS ONE OF THE GREATEST MUSICIANS INDIA HAS PRODUCED. HIS CONTRIBUTION TO HINDUSTANI CLASSICAL MUSIC REMAINS MATCHLESS. HE FOUND AN ENCOURAGING PATRON IN AKBAR, THE GREAT MUGHAL EMPEROR.



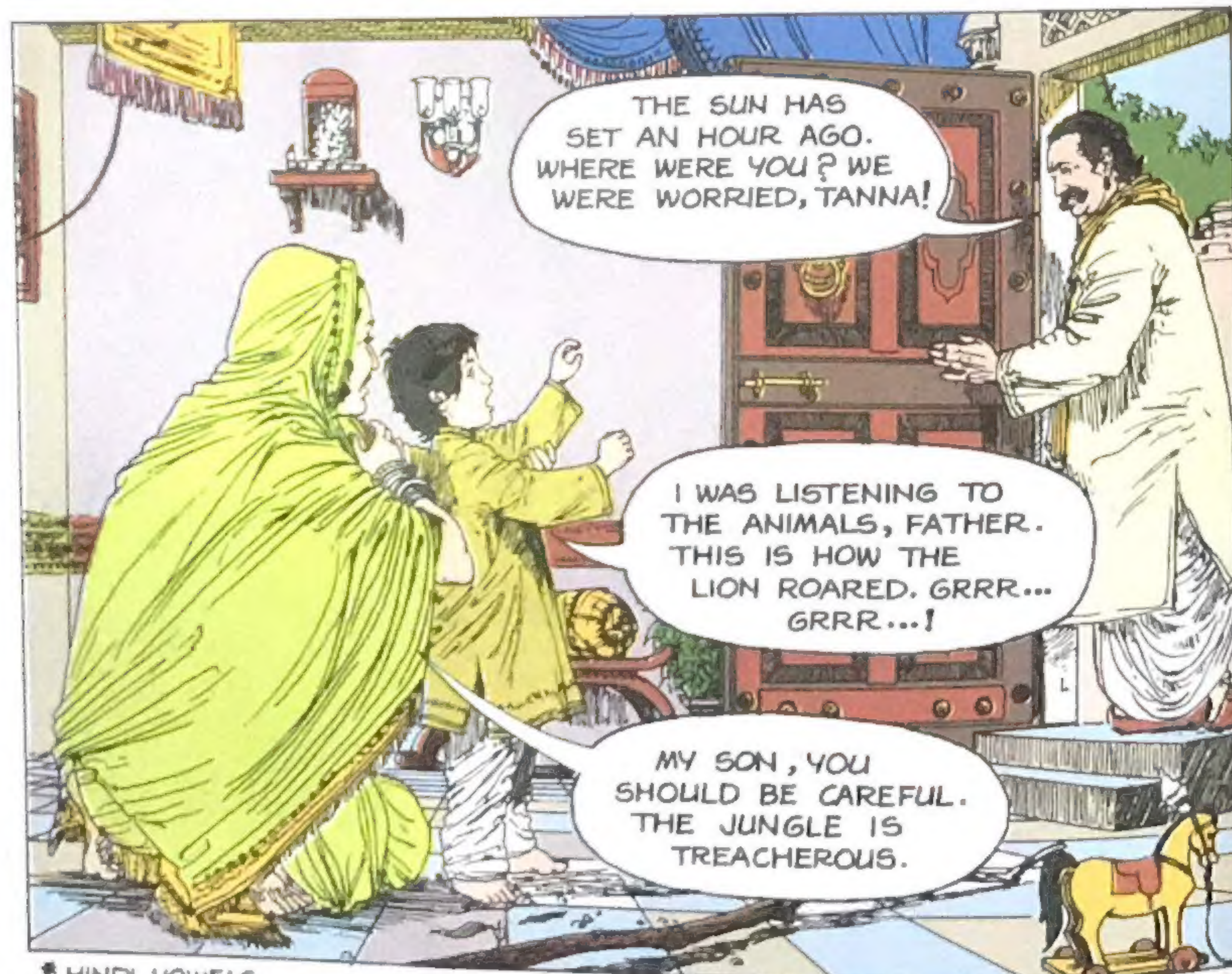
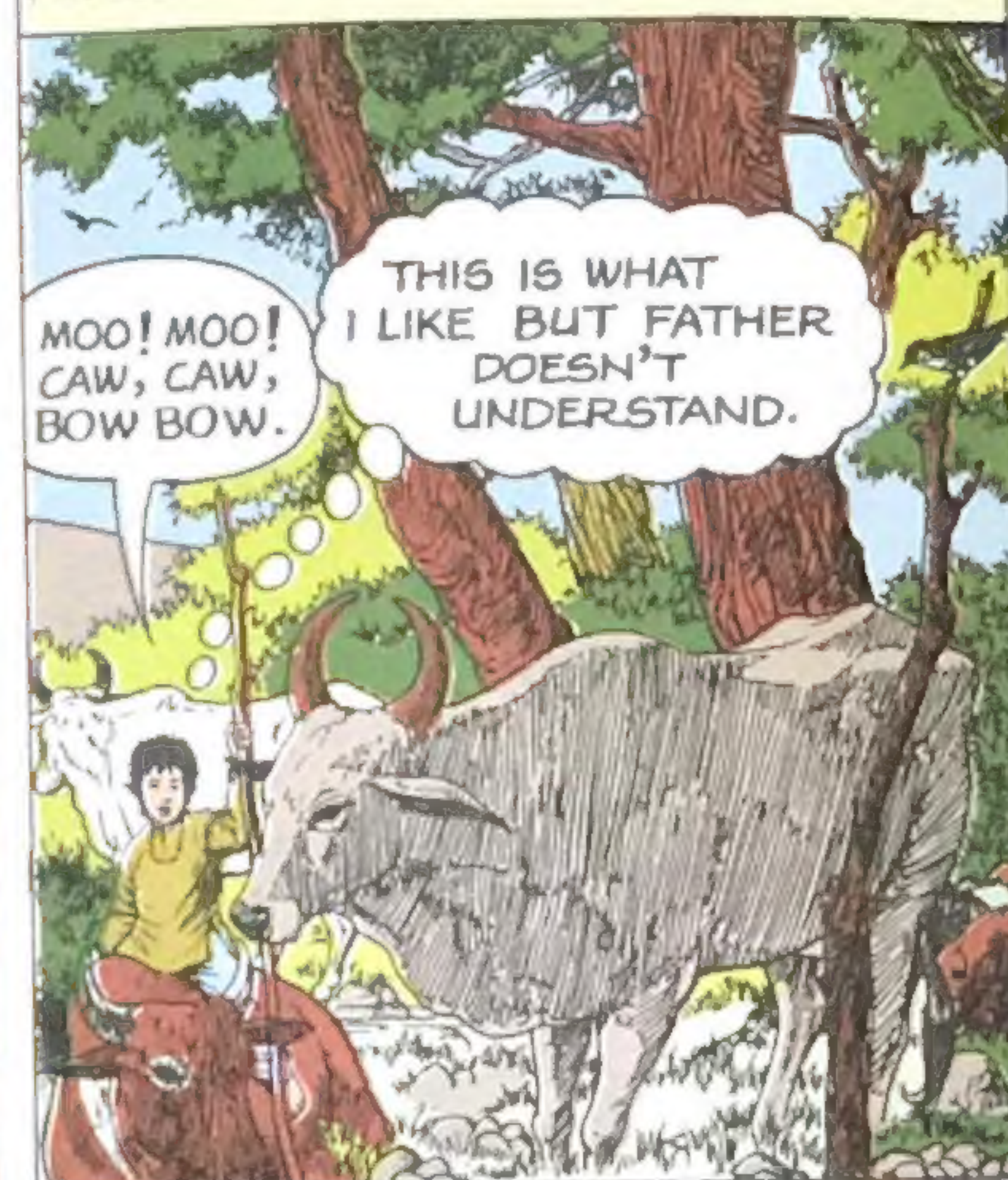




TANSEN GREW UP TO BE A NAUGHTY BOY.

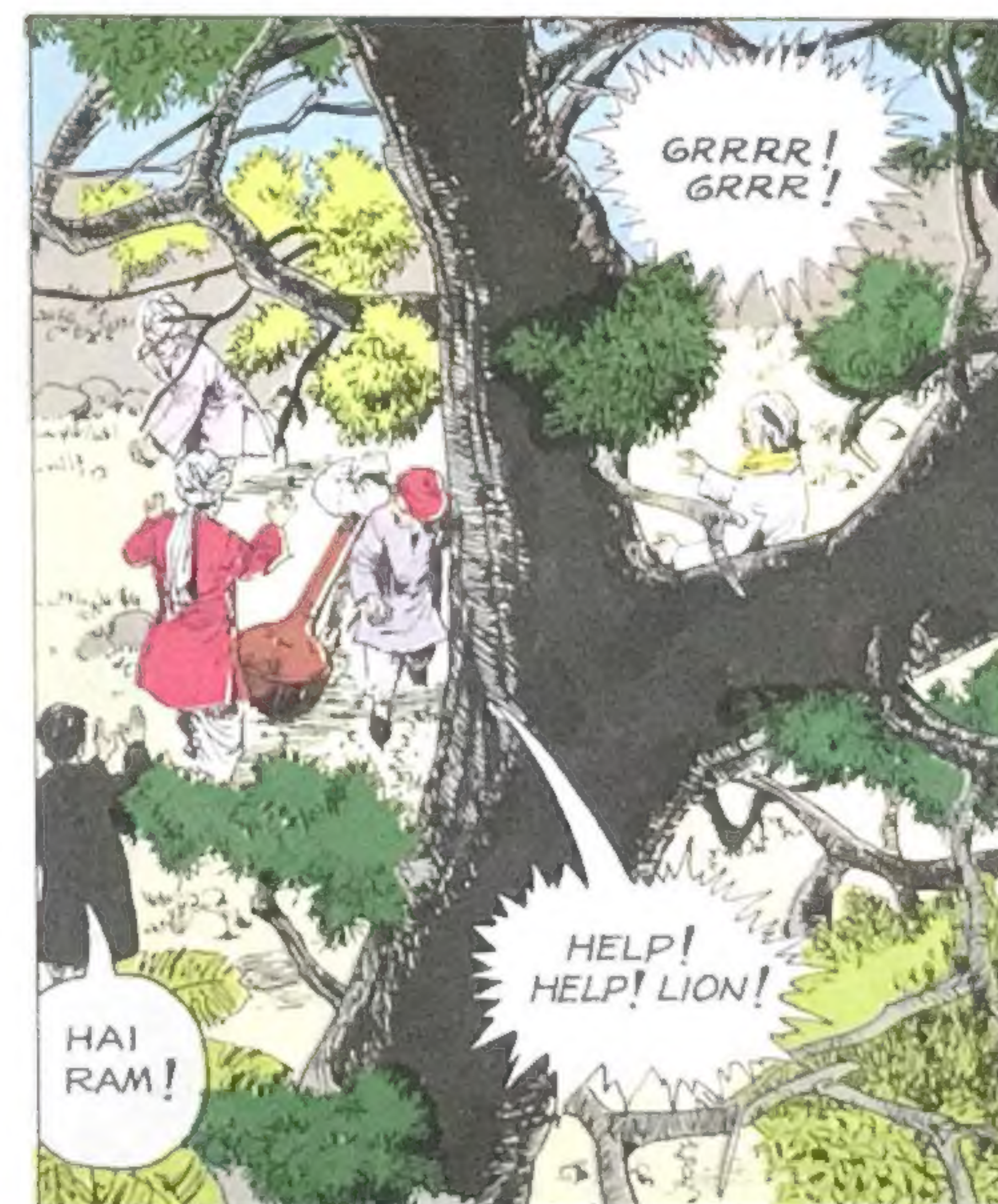


HE LOVED GOING FOR WALKS IN THE FOREST ALONG WITH THE COWS.

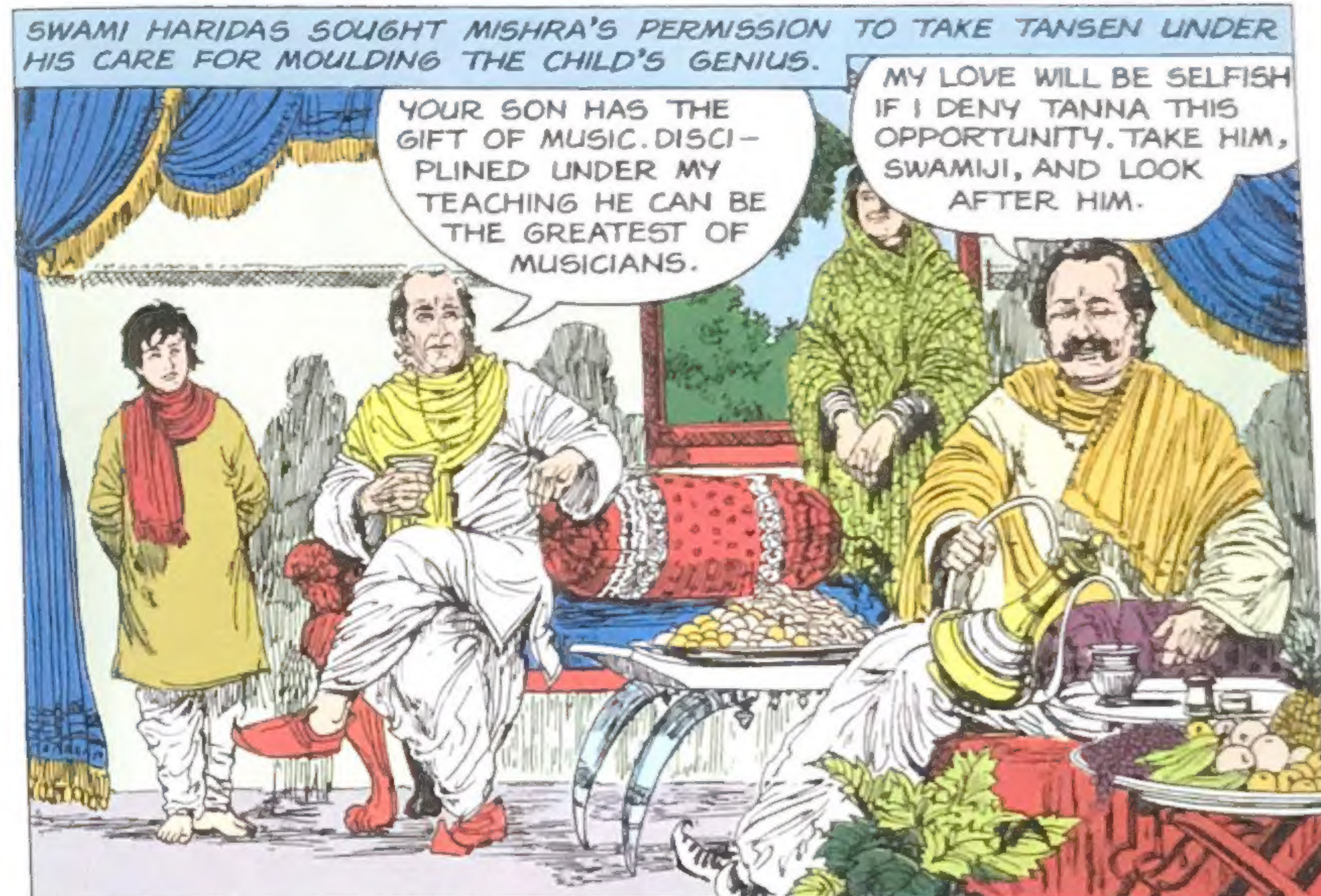


\* HINDI VOWELS.

ONE DAY A FAMOUS SINGER SWAMI HARIDAS, ALONG WITH HIS DISCIPLES, WAS PASSING THROUGH BEHAT. TIRED, THEY RESTED IN A GLADE.

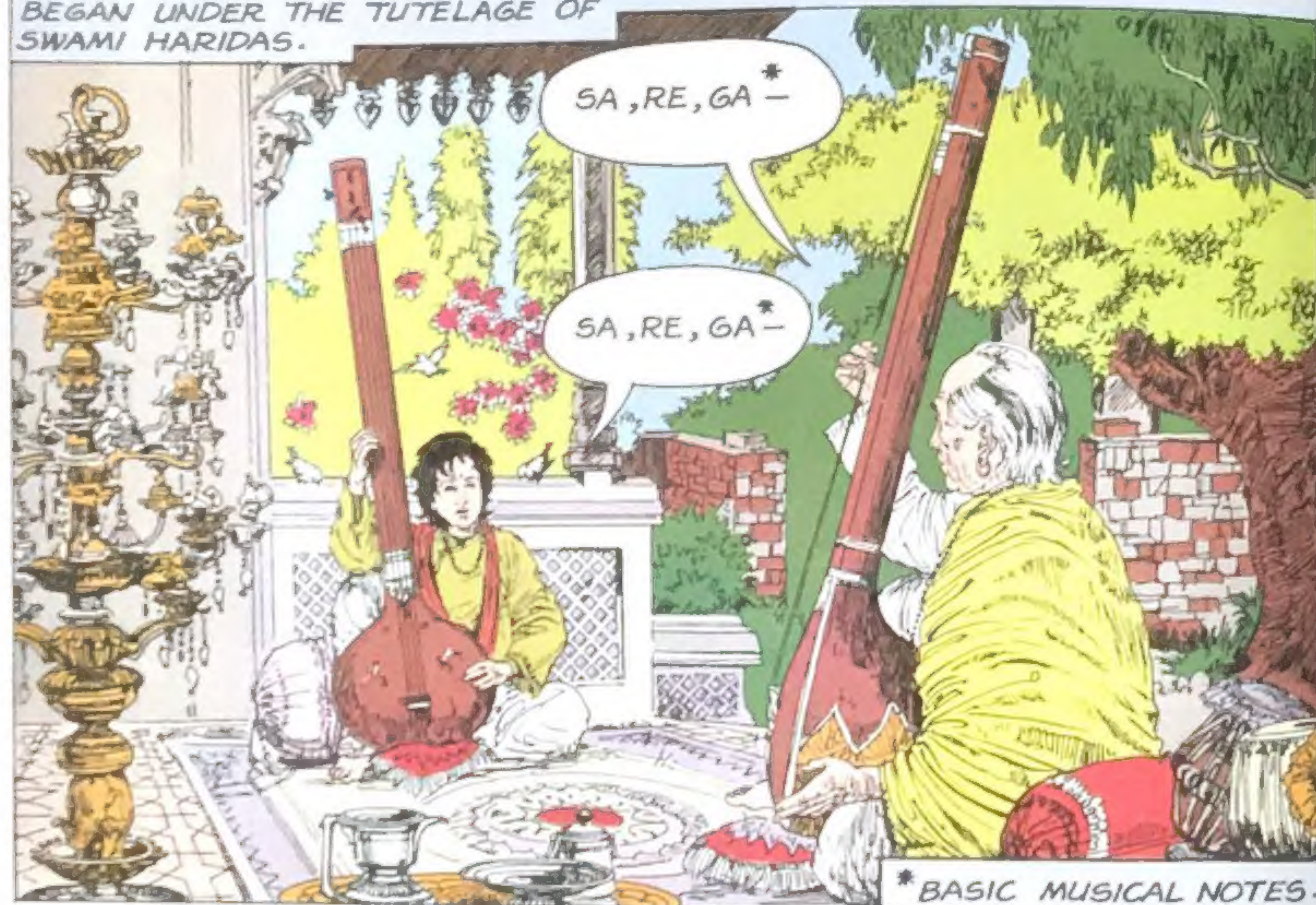




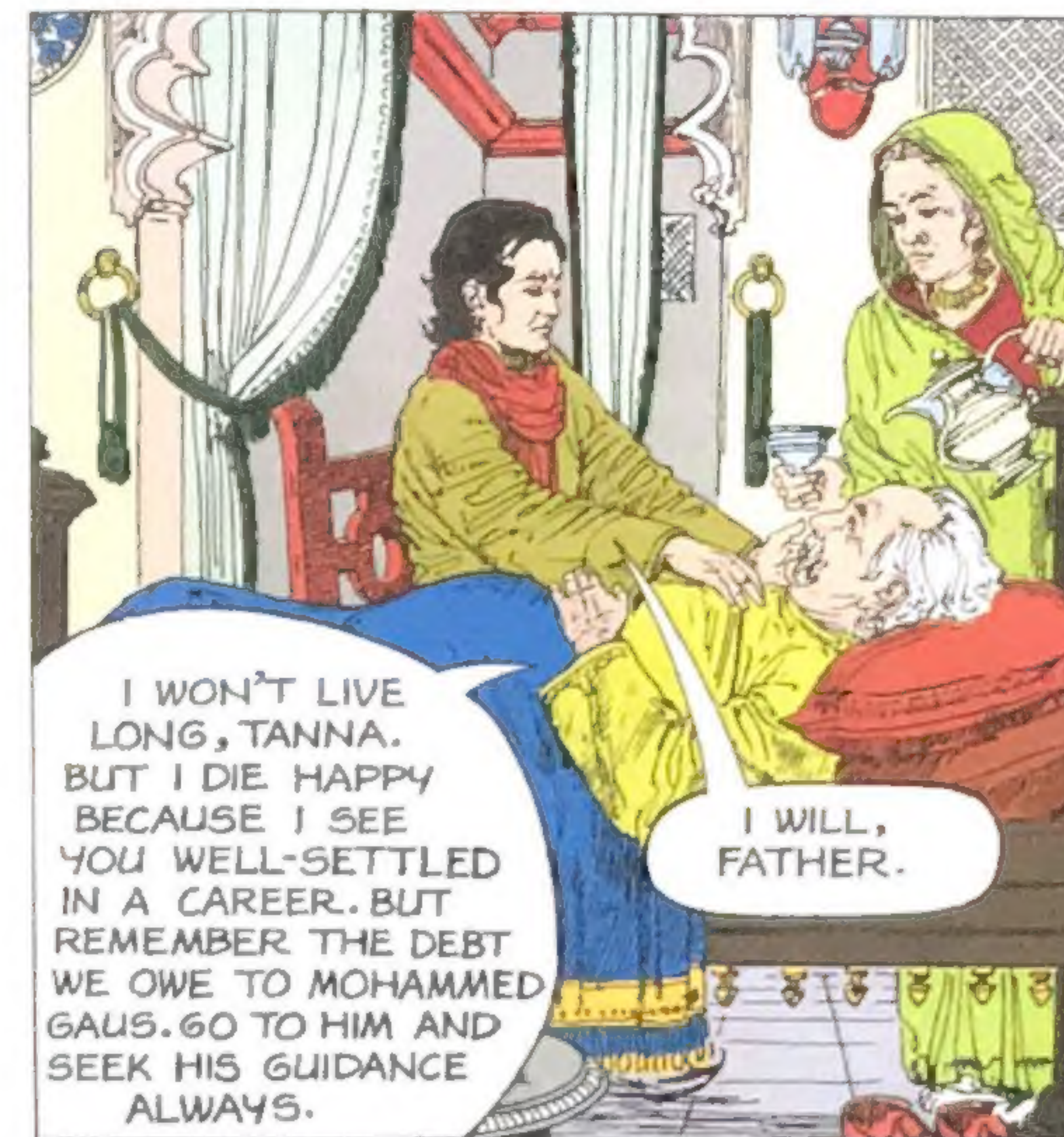
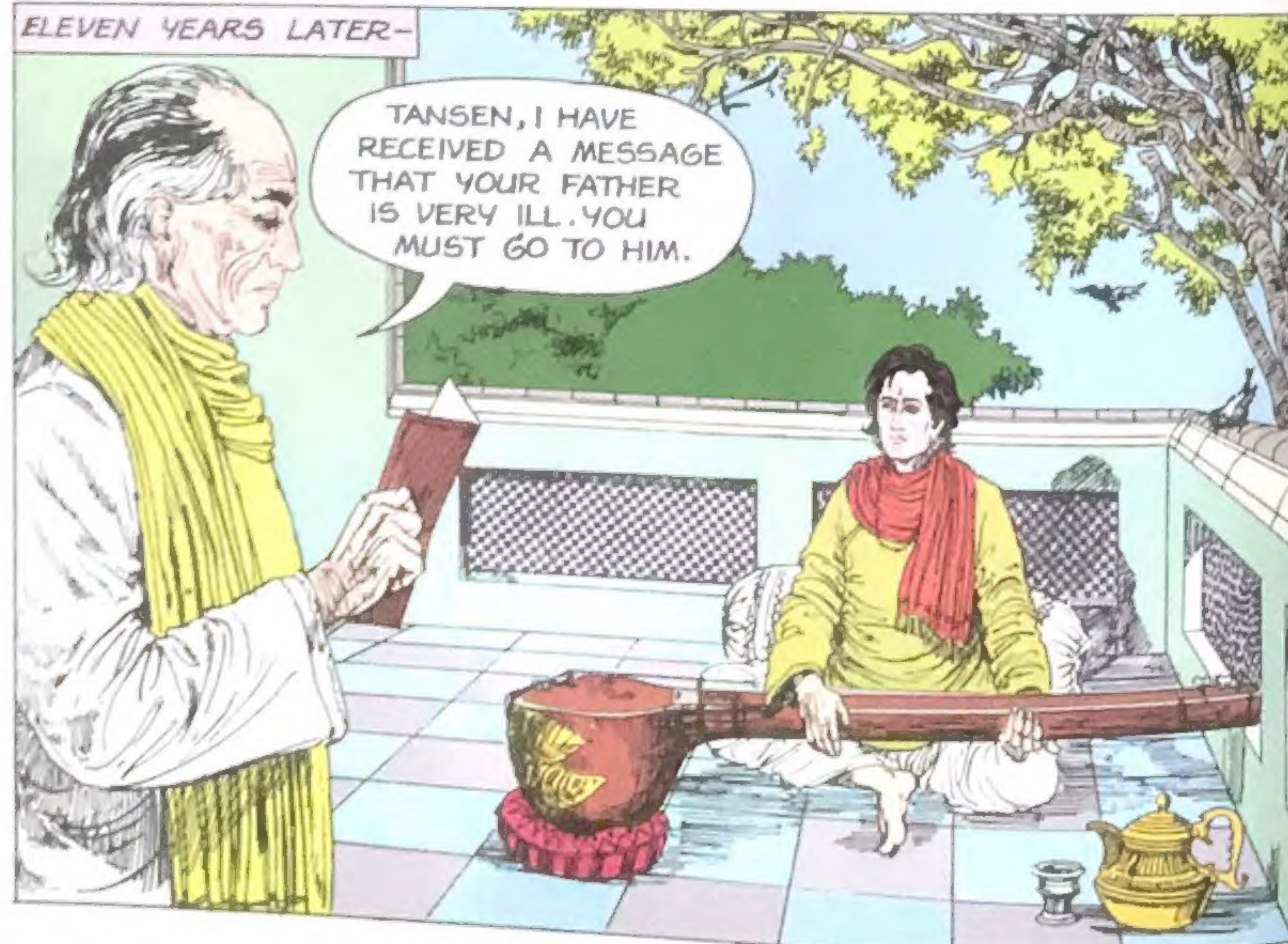




TEN-YEAR-OLD TANSEN WAS TAKEN TO BRINDAVAN. THERE HIS TRAINING BEGAN UNDER THE TUTELAGE OF SWAMI HARIDAS.



ELEVEN YEARS LATER-



SOON AFTER HIS FATHER'S DEATH HIS MOTHER, TOO, DIED.



TANSEN HAD NO ONE NOW EXCEPT SWAMI HARIDAS AND MOHAMMED GAUS.



GURUJI, PLEASE PERMIT ME TO VISIT MOHAMMED GAUS. IT WAS MY FATHER'S LAST WISH THAT I SHOULD DO SO.





TANSEN STAYED WITH MOHAMMED GAUS FOR TWO YEARS OR SO PRACTISING MUSIC TILL HIS TALENTS BLOSSOMED FULLY.



RANI MRIGANAINI OF GWALIOR WAS AN INIMITABLE SINGER. TANSEN WAS KEEN ON HEARING HER SING.



MOHAMMED GAUS WHO KNEW THE RANI INTRODUCED TANSEN TO HER.

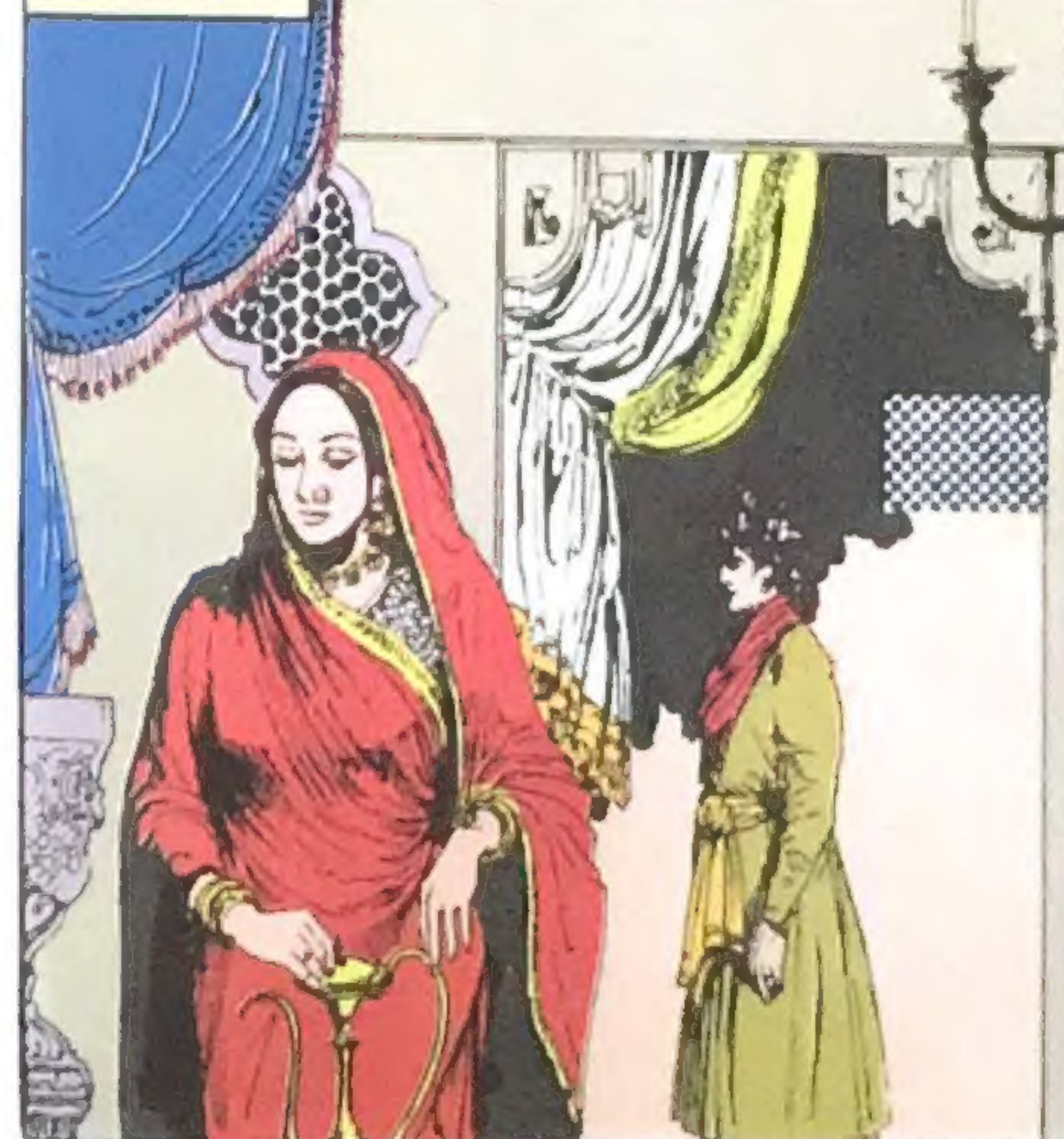


LATER -



THE RANI WAS PLEASED WITH TANSEN AND THEY BECAME MUTUAL ADMIRERS. TANSEN OFTEN VISITED HER AND STAYED ON TO HEAR HER SING.

THEN HIS VISITS BECAME EVEN MORE FREQUENT. BUT FOR ANOTHER REASON, THE RANI'S LADY-IN-WAITING, HUSSAINI.





TANSEN PLEADED WITH MOHAMMED GAUS TO MARRY THEM. HE CHANGED HIS RELIGION, BECAME ATA ALI KHAN AND WAS WEDDED TO HUSSAINI.



AFTER THE WEDDING—

I HAVEN'T SEEN GURUJI FOR YEARS. PLEASE PERMIT US TO GO AND SEEK HIS BLESSINGS—



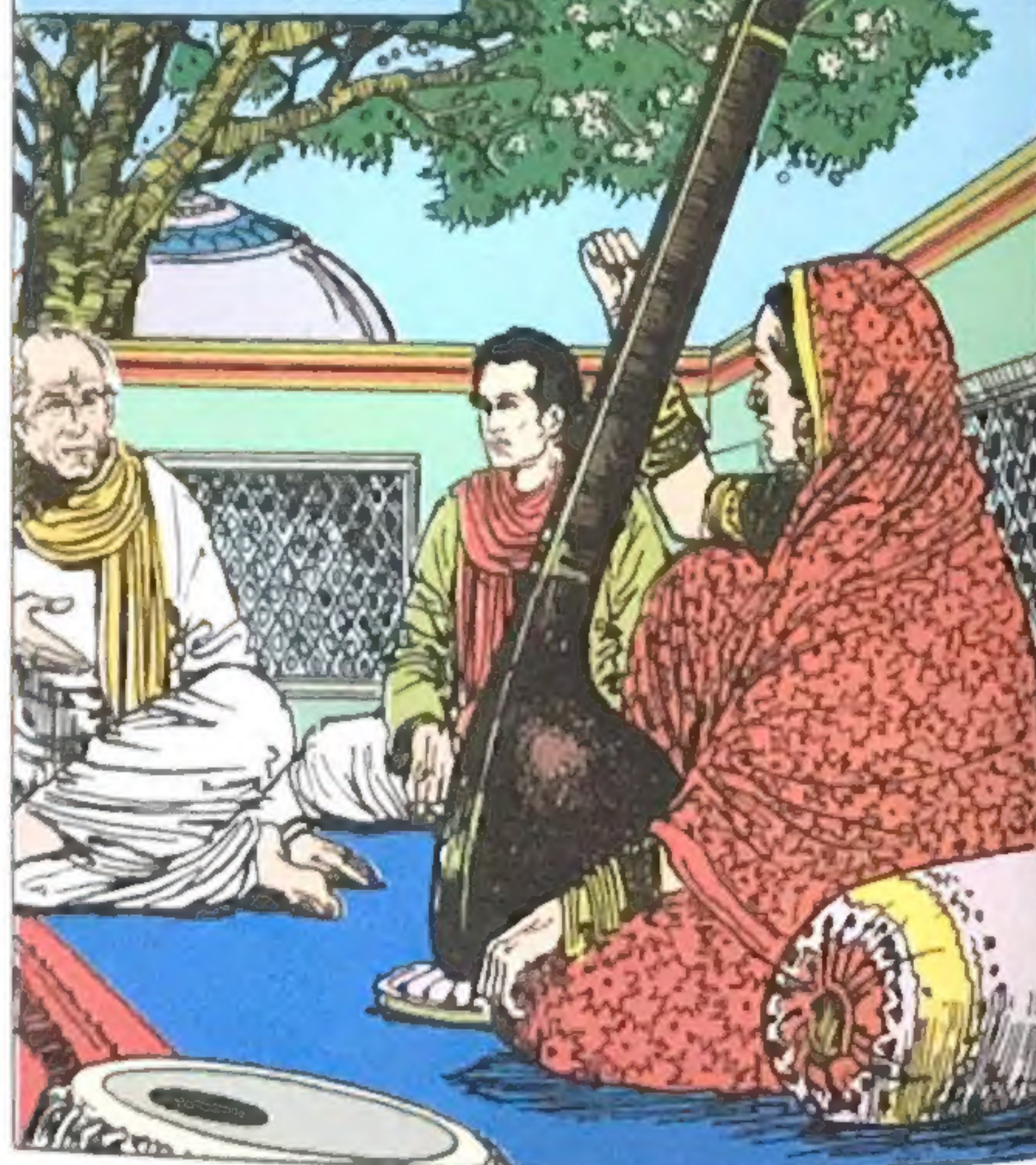
YES, MY SON, YOU MAY GO.



I AM HAPPY TO SEE YOU AGAIN, TANSEN. CONSIDER THIS YOUR OWN HOME. STAY AS LONG AS YOU LIKE.

GURUJI.

HUSSAINI, TOO BECAME SWAMI HARIDAS'S DISCIPLE AND BOTH PRACTISED MUSIC WITH HIM DAILY.



ONE DAY—



I AM ILL. MY LIFE IS COMING TO AN END. I WISH TO SEE YOU FOR THE LAST TIME.

TANSEN WENT TO MOHAMMED GAUS AND NURSED HIM DAY AND NIGHT.



WHEN MOHAMMED GAUS DIED, HE LEFT HIS HOUSE AND MONEY TO TANSEN. TANSEN AND HIS WIFE SETTLED IN THE NEW HOME.



SIR, THE MISTRESS HAS LAID OUT YOUR DINNER AND IS WAITING.



TANSEN WAS A SINGER OF GREAT REPUTE NOW. HIS FAME HAD SPREAD FAR AND WIDE.

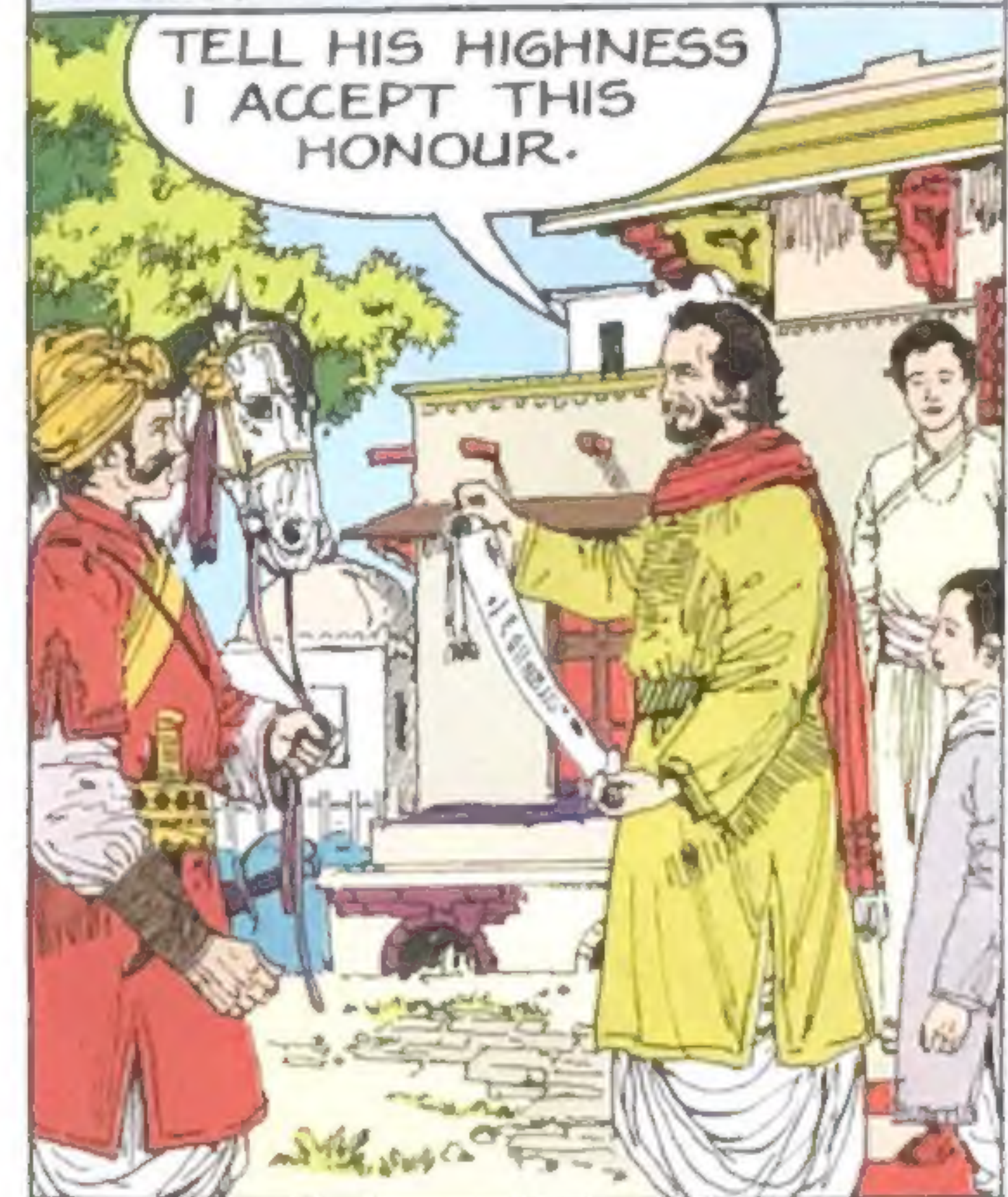


SO THE YEARS PASSED. DAILY PRACTICE WAS LIKE A FAMILY MEETING. HIS FOUR SONS, DAUGHTER AND WIFE WOULD ALL SIT TOGETHER AND SING OF THEM HIS YOUNGEST SON, VILAS KHAN MUCH LATER BECAME A NOTED SINGER.



\* A RAAG.

AT ABOUT THAT TIME, RAJARAM, THE MAHARAJA OF REWAS, A GREAT LOVER OF MUSIC, INVITED TANSEN TO BE HIS COURT SINGER.



ONE DAY AT THE COURT—

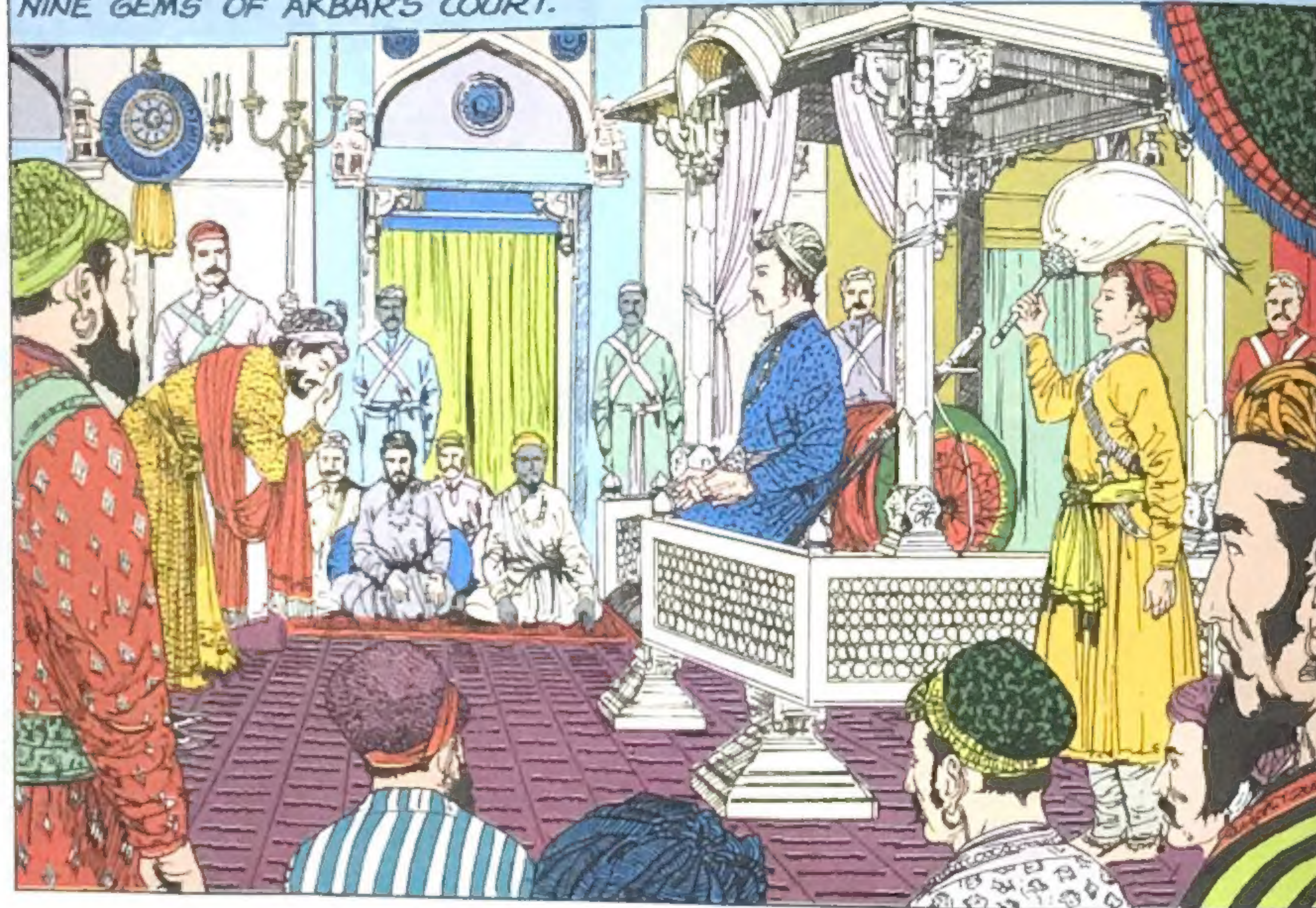


AFTER TANSEN FINISHED SINGING—





TANSEN ARRIVED IN AGRA IN 1556. HE BECAME KNOWN AS ONE OF THE 'NINE GEMS' OF AKBAR'S COURT.

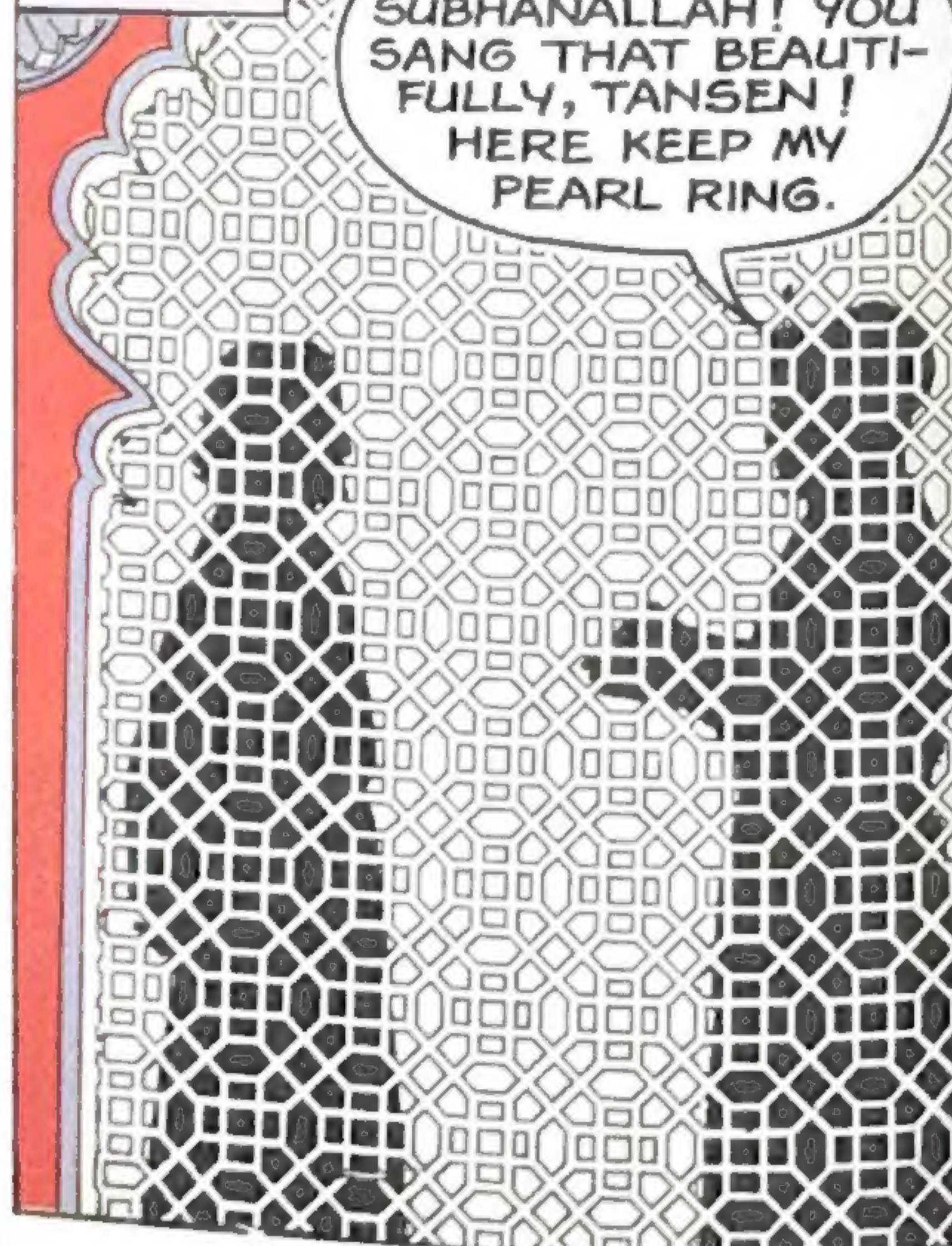


AT NIGHT TANSEN WOULD SING HIS MELODIES NEAR AKBAR'S BED.

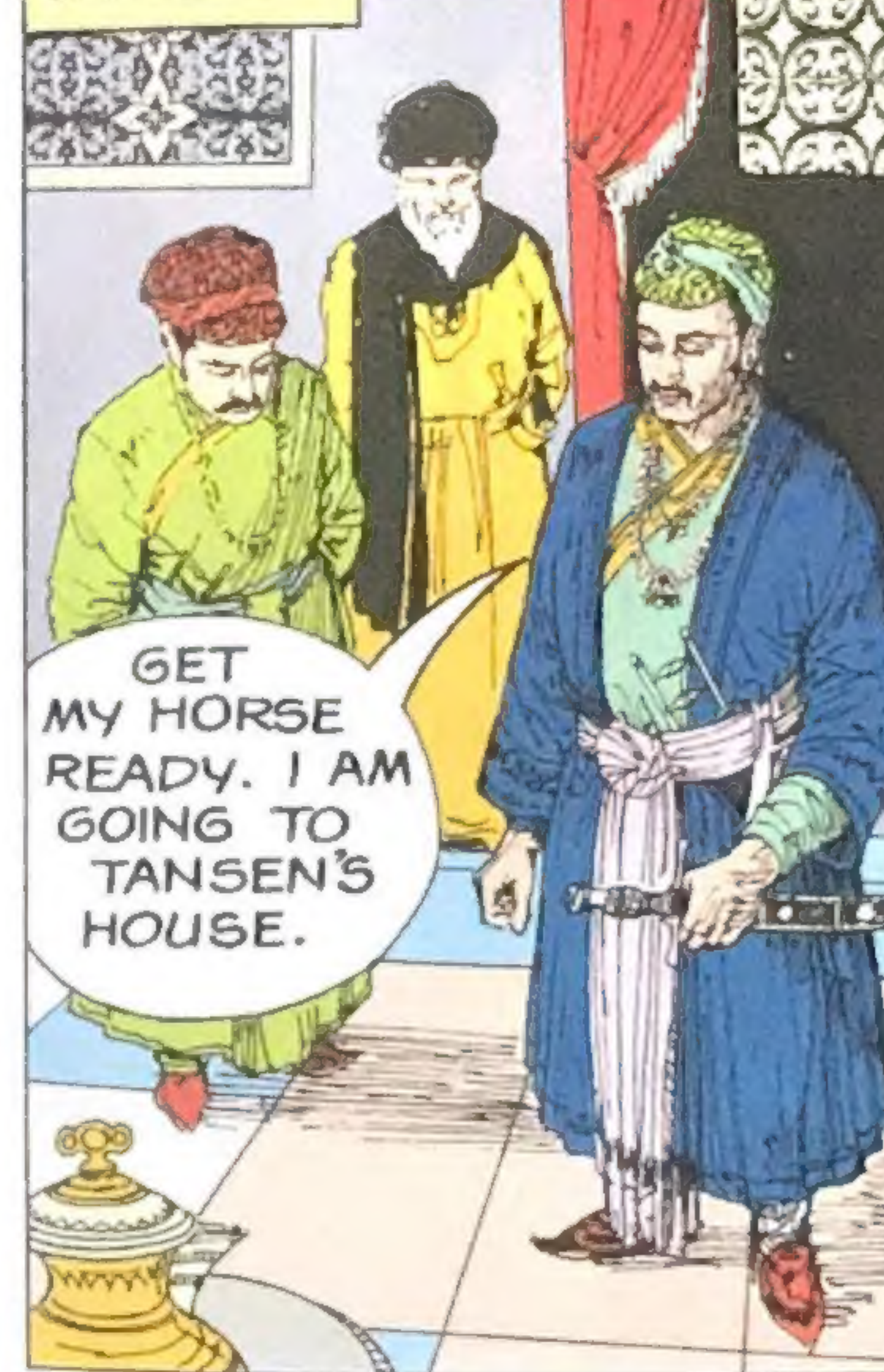


IN THE MORNING TANSEN'S SOUL-STIRRING \*TODI OR \*BHAIRAV GENTLY WOKE UP AKBAR AND HIS NOBLES.

SUBHANALLAH! YOU SANG THAT BEAUTIFULLY, TANSEN! HERE KEEP MY PEARL RING.



AKBAR OFTEN VISITED TANSEN.

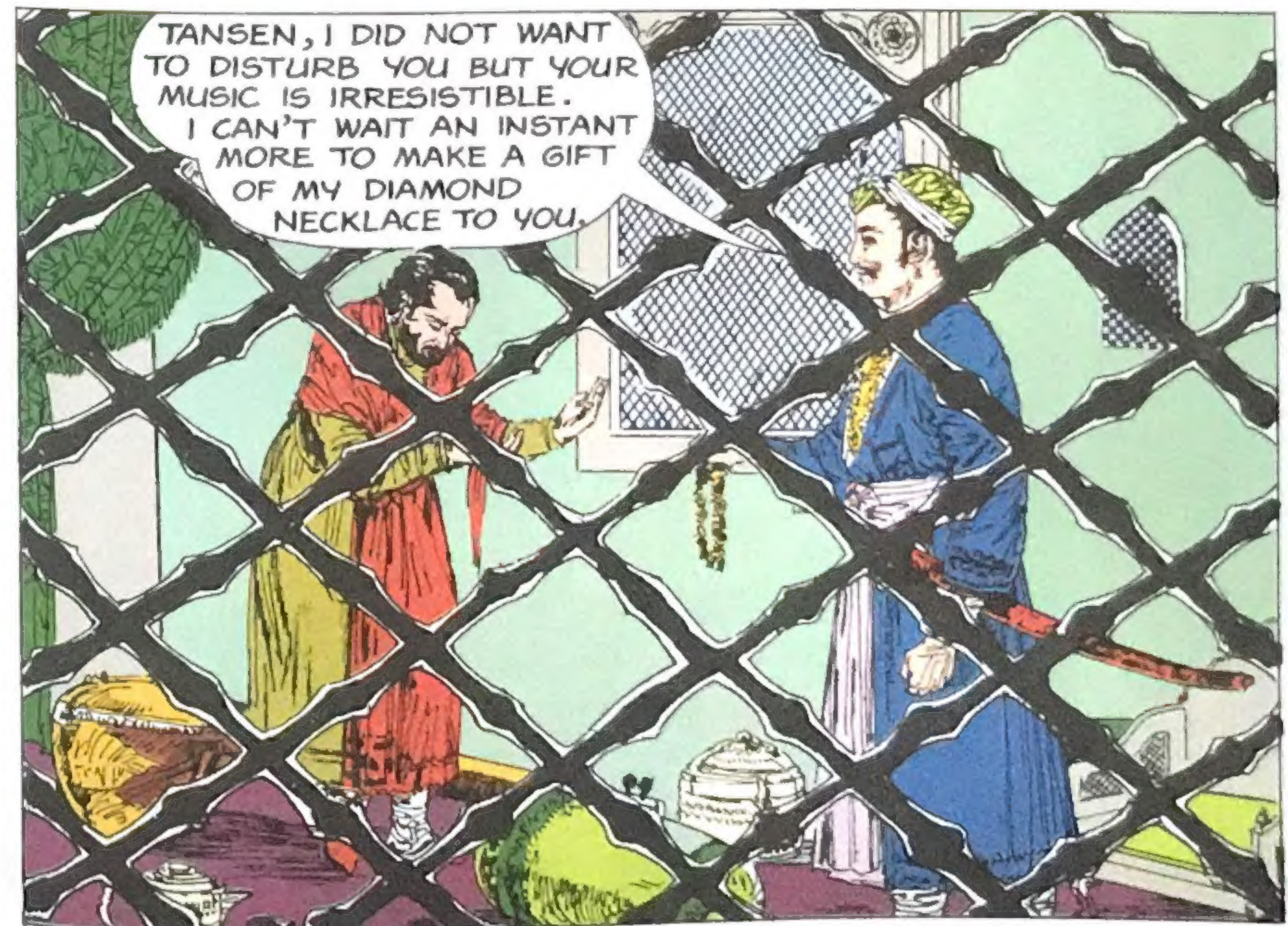


GET MY HORSE READY. I AM GOING TO TANSEN'S HOUSE.



SIRE!

SHHH! DO NOT INTERRUPT TANSEN. I SHALL SIT HERE AND LISTEN TO HIM QUIETLY.

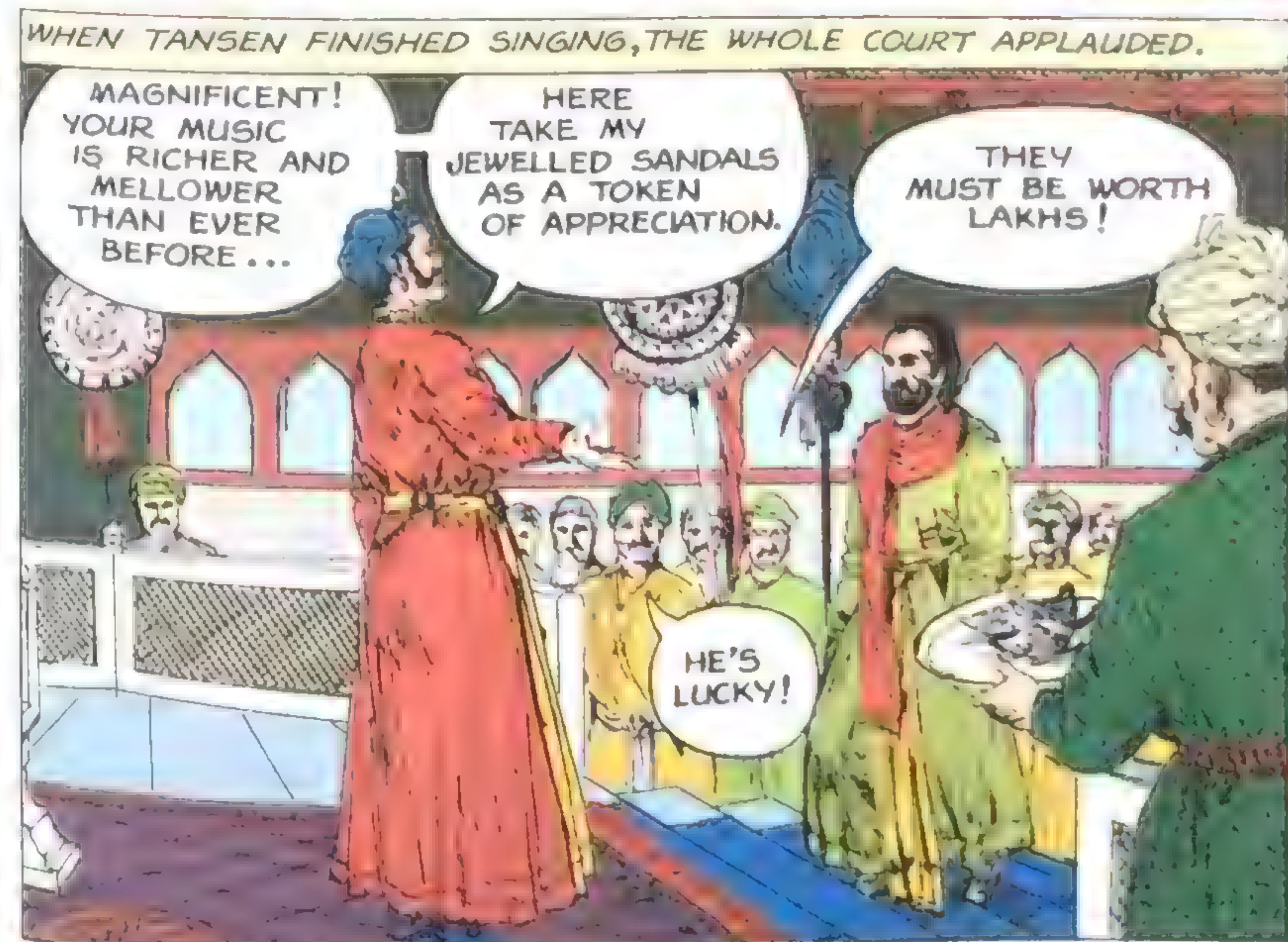


TANSEN, I DID NOT WANT TO DISTURB YOU BUT YOUR MUSIC IS IRRESISTIBLE. I CAN'T WAIT AN INSTANT MORE TO MAKE A GIFT OF MY DIAMOND NECKLACE TO YOU.



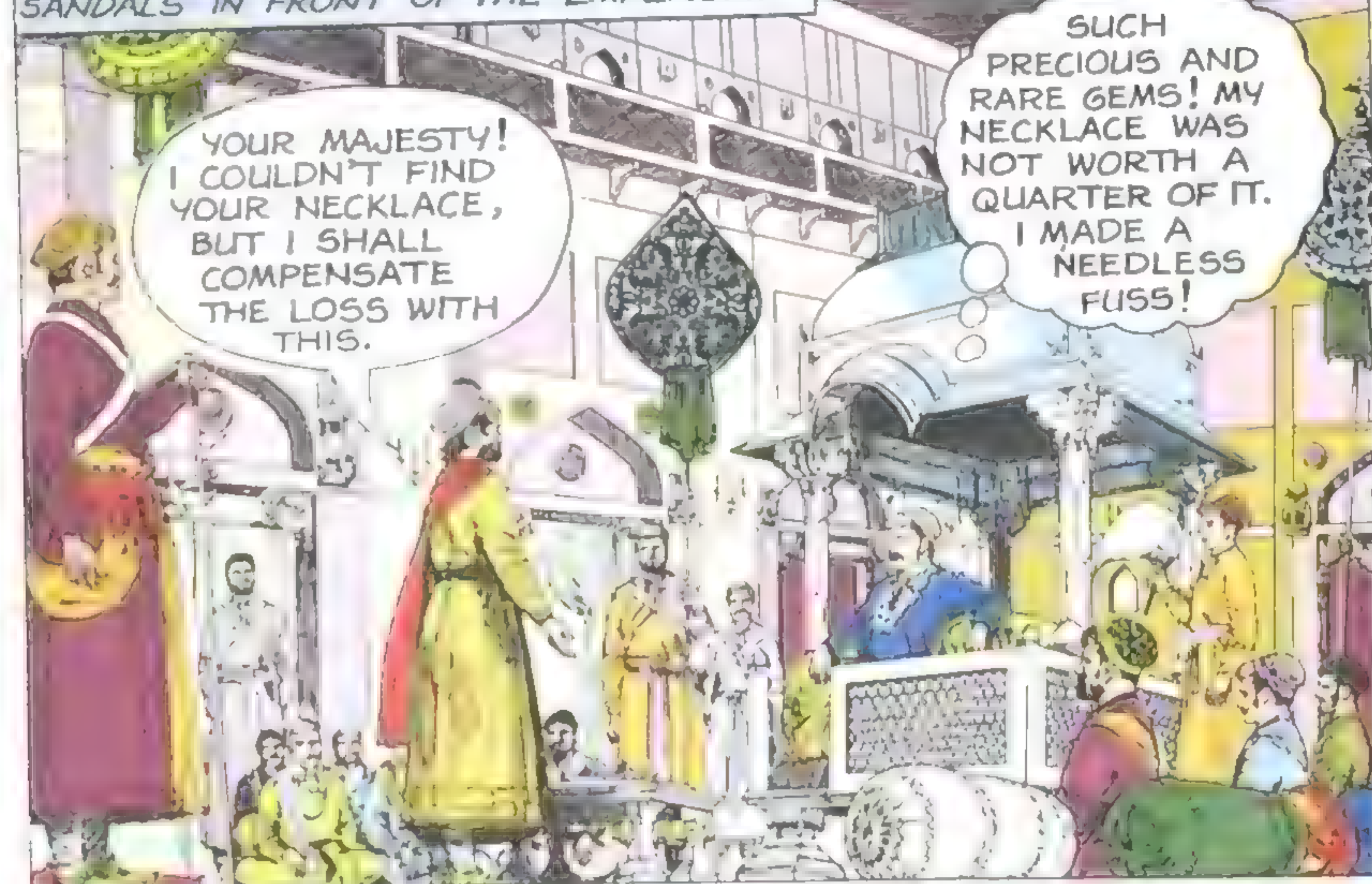








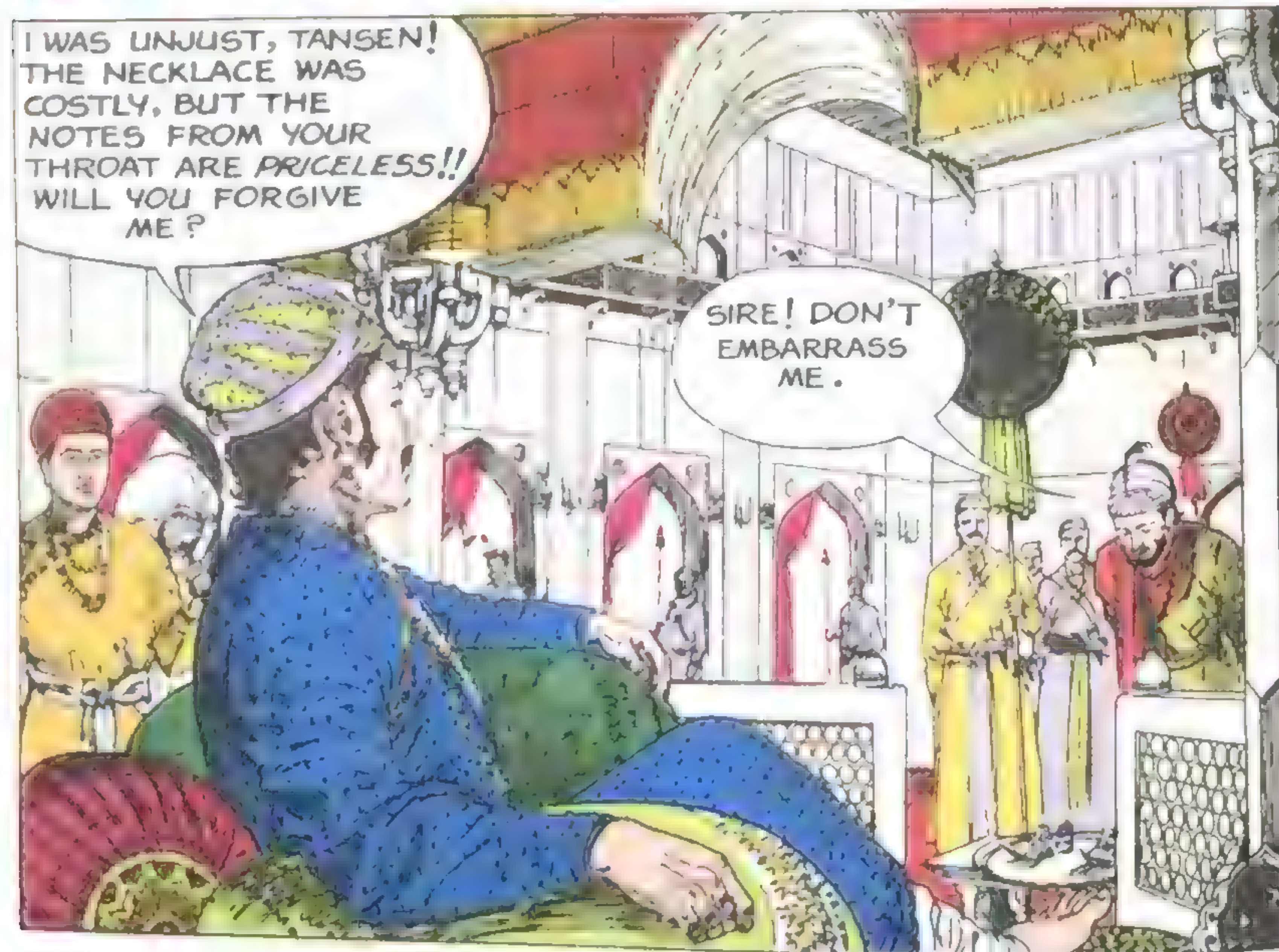
BACK IN AKBAR'S COURT, TANSEN SET DOWN THE JEWELLED SANDALS IN FRONT OF THE EMPEROR.



YOUR MAJESTY!  
I COULDN'T FIND  
YOUR NECKLACE,  
BUT I SHALL  
COMPENSATE  
THE LOSS WITH  
THIS.

SUCH  
PRECIOUS AND  
RARE GEMS! MY  
NECKLACE WAS  
NOT WORTH A  
QUARTER OF IT.  
I MADE A  
NEEDLESS  
FUSS!

I WAS UNJUST, TANSEN!  
THE NECKLACE WAS  
COSTLY, BUT THE  
NOTES FROM YOUR  
THROAT ARE PRICELESS!!  
WILL YOU FORGIVE  
ME?

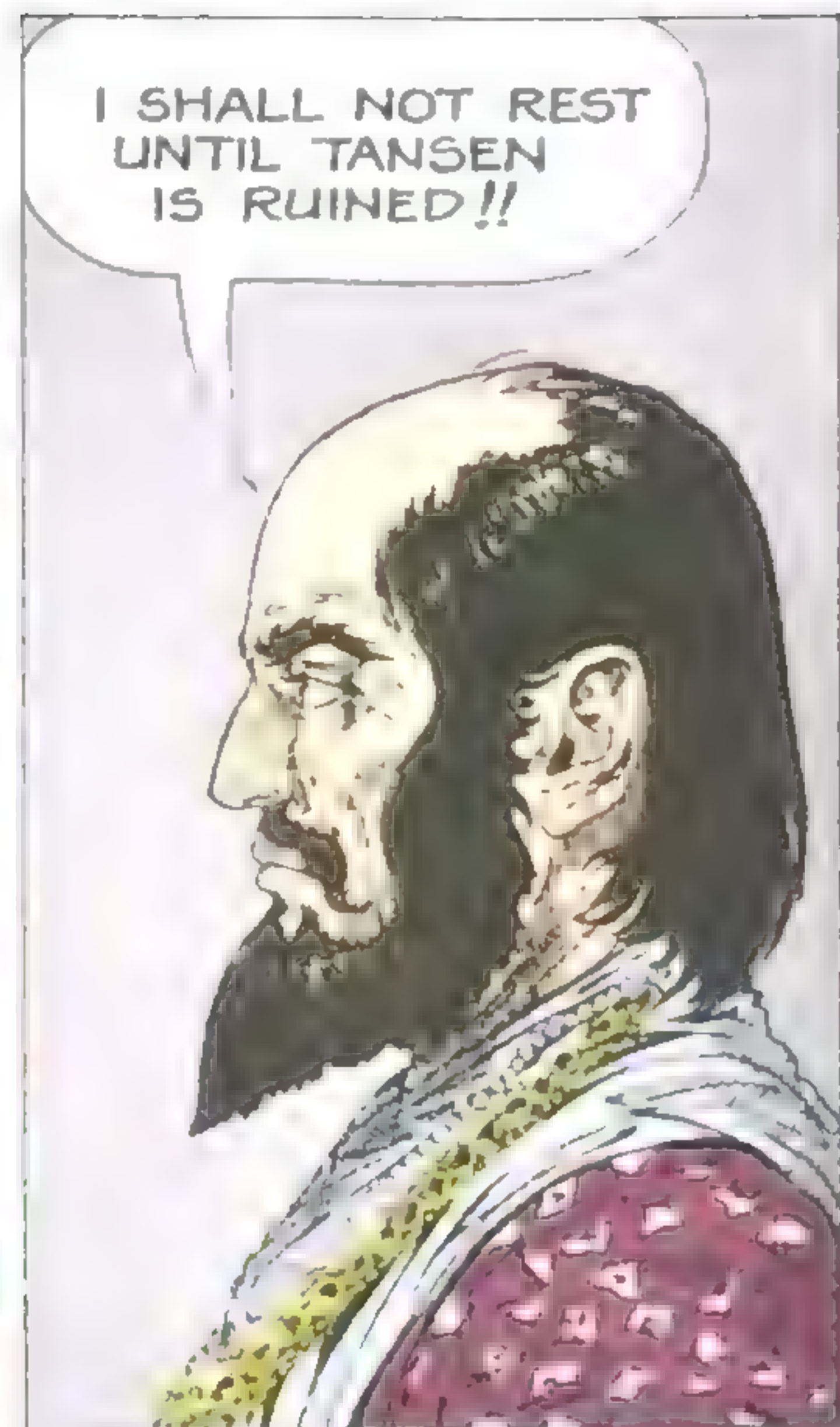


SIRE! DON'T  
EMBARRASS  
ME.



IT WAS  
ALL  
IN VAIN.

AND THE  
EMPEROR'S  
FAVOURITE  
IS BACK  
IN HIS  
SEAT.



I SHALL NOT REST  
UNTIL TANSEN  
IS RUINED!!

TANSEN'S ENEMIES WERE DETERMINED TO RUIN HIM.

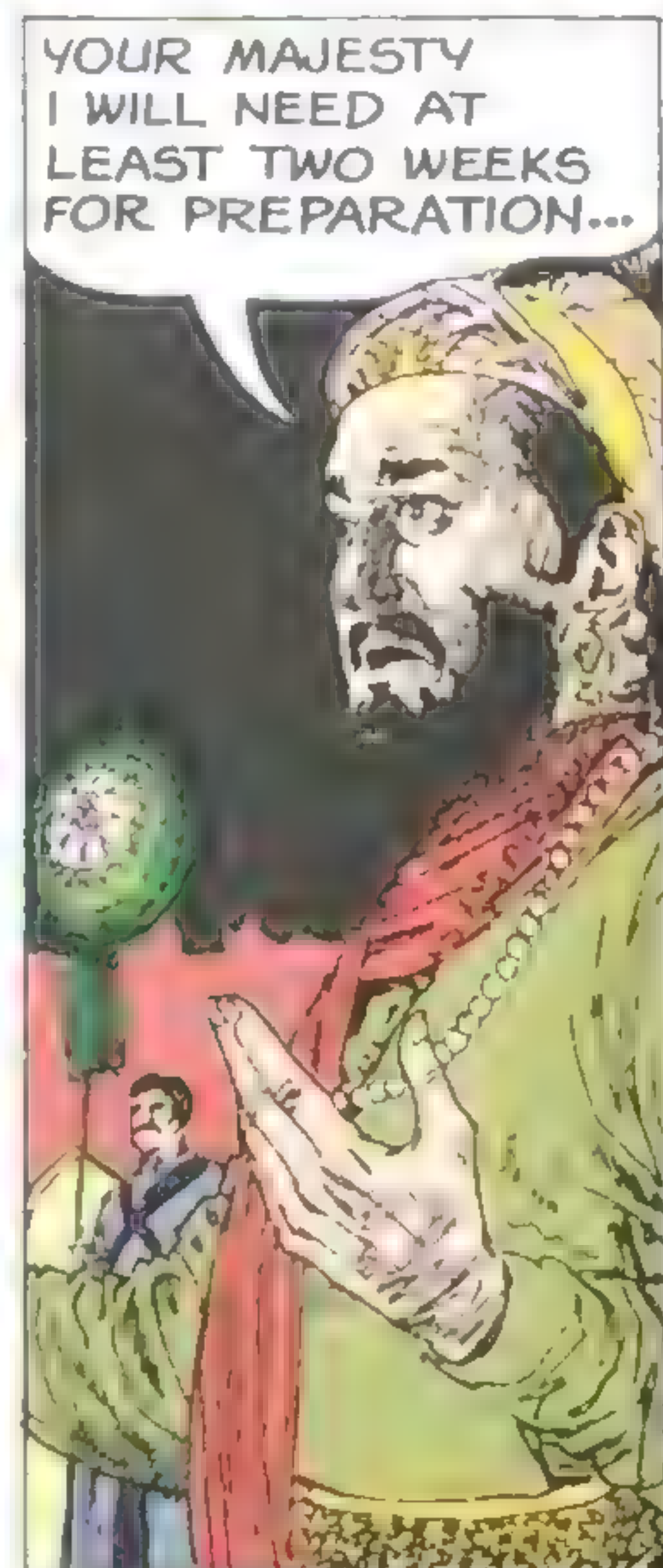
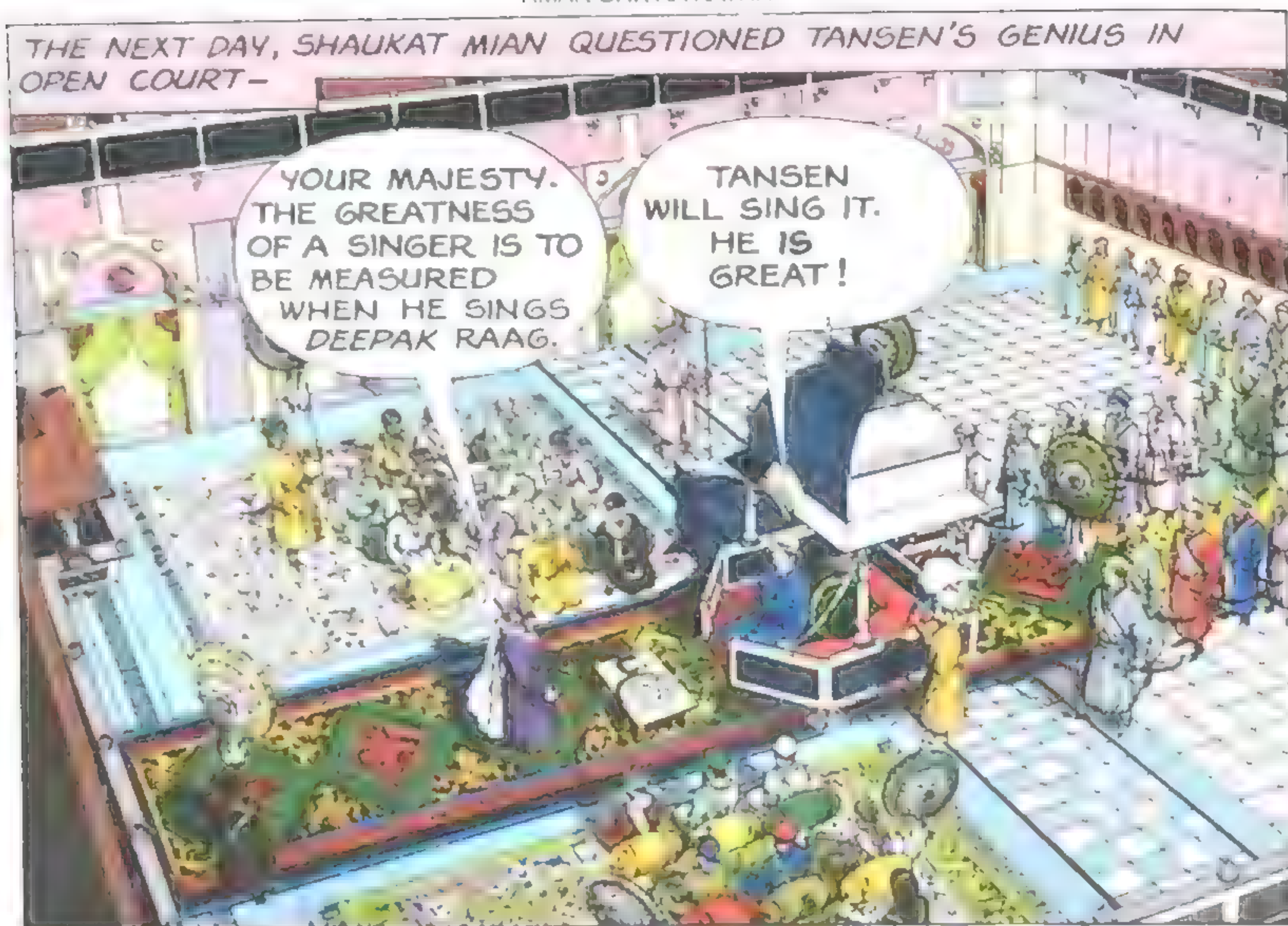


MAKE HIM SING  
DEEPAK RAAG.  
HE WILL BURN  
HIMSELF TO  
DEATH!

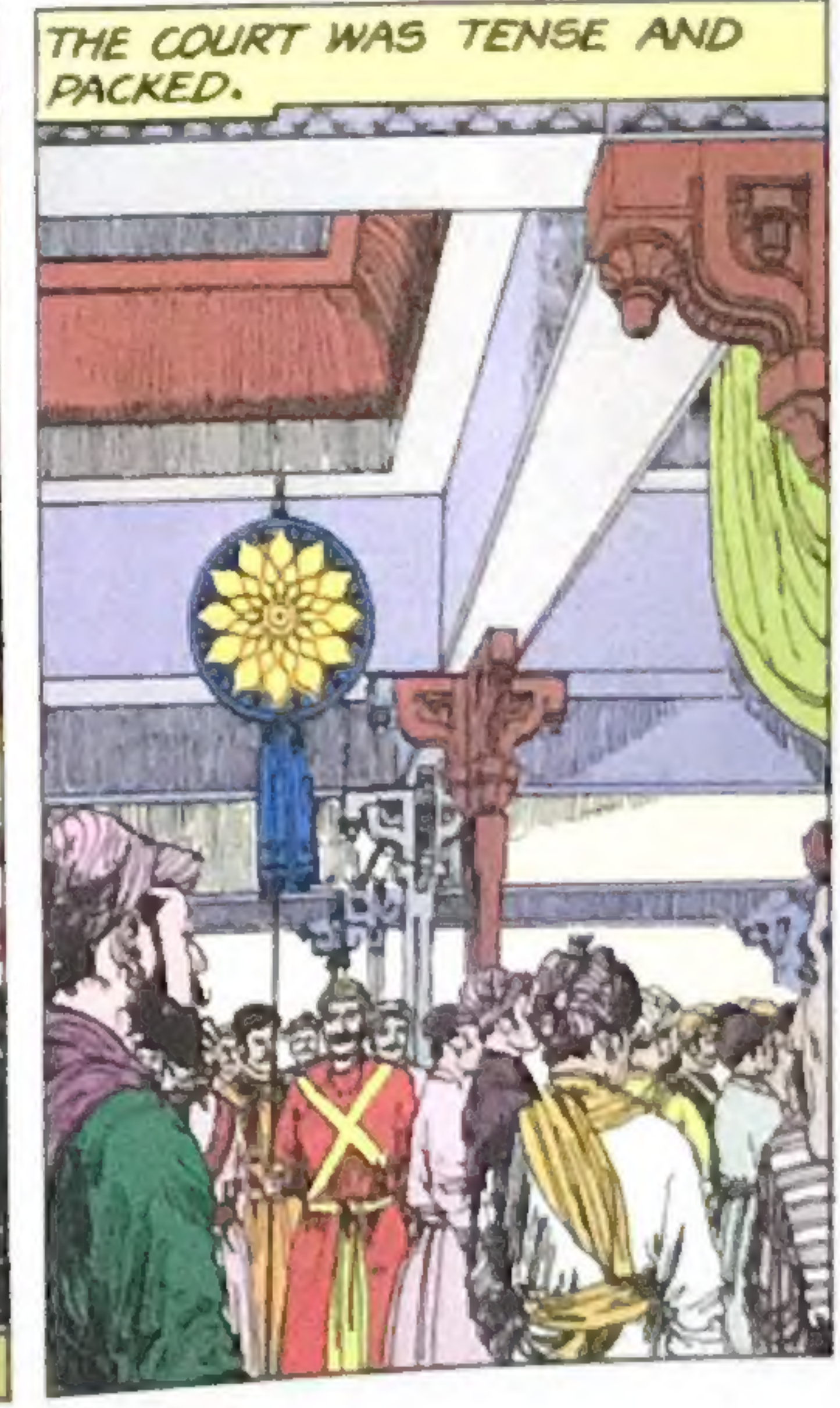
!!

THAT'S  
A BRILLIANT  
IDEA!











AS TANSEN BEGAN THE ALAAP\* THE AIR BECAME WARM.



\* SLOW UNFOLDING OF A RAAG.

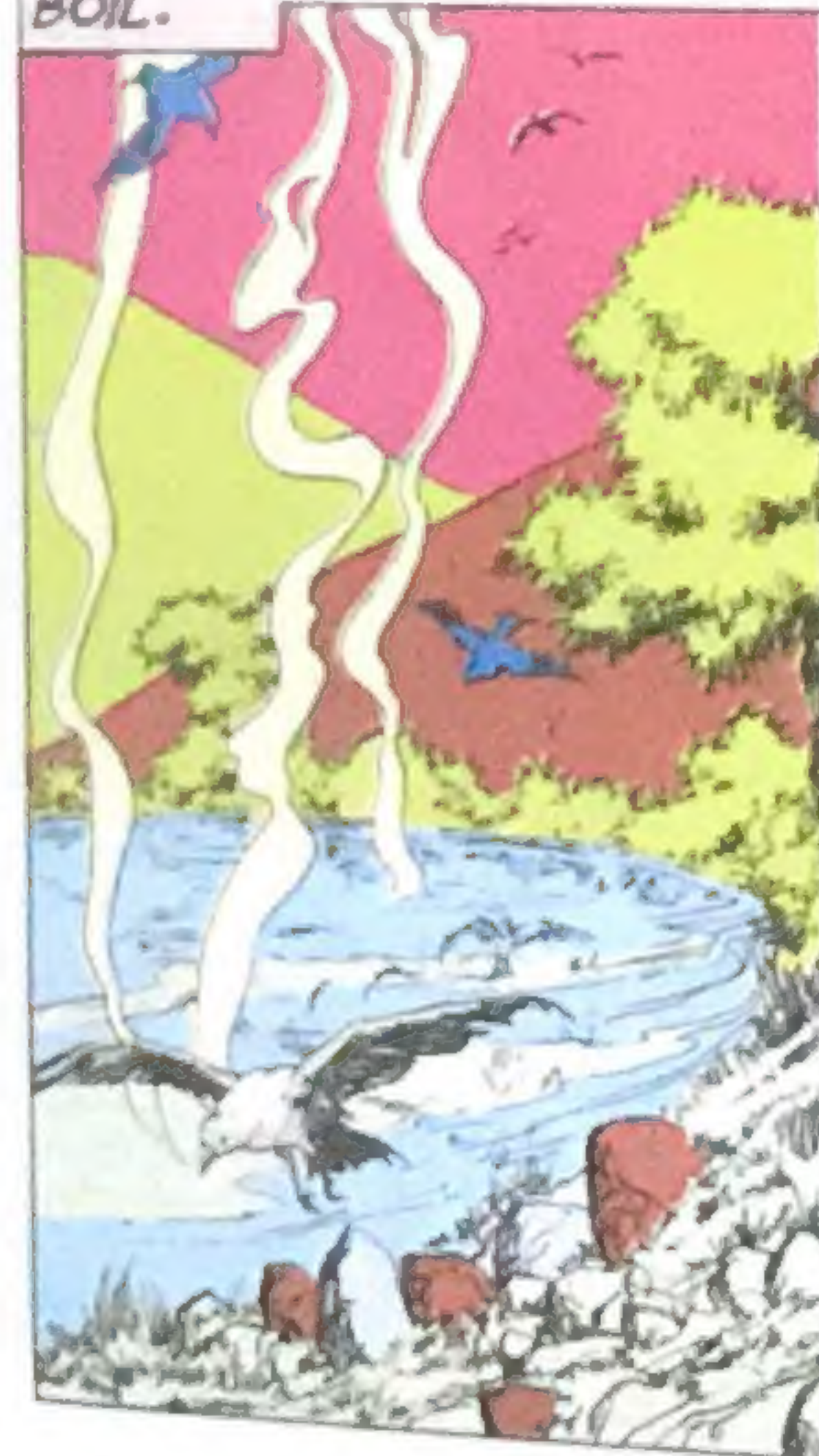
GRADUALLY PEOPLE WERE BATHED IN PERSPIRATION. THEY LONGED FOR A WHIFF OF COOL BREEZE.



THE LEAVES OF TREES DRIED UP AND FELL TO THE GROUND.



AS THE TEMPO OF THE MUSIC INCREASED, BIRDS TOO FELL DEAD. THE WATER IN THE RIVER BEGAN TO BOIL.



TANSEN'S BODY WAS FEVERISH AND HIS EYES BLOODSHOT.



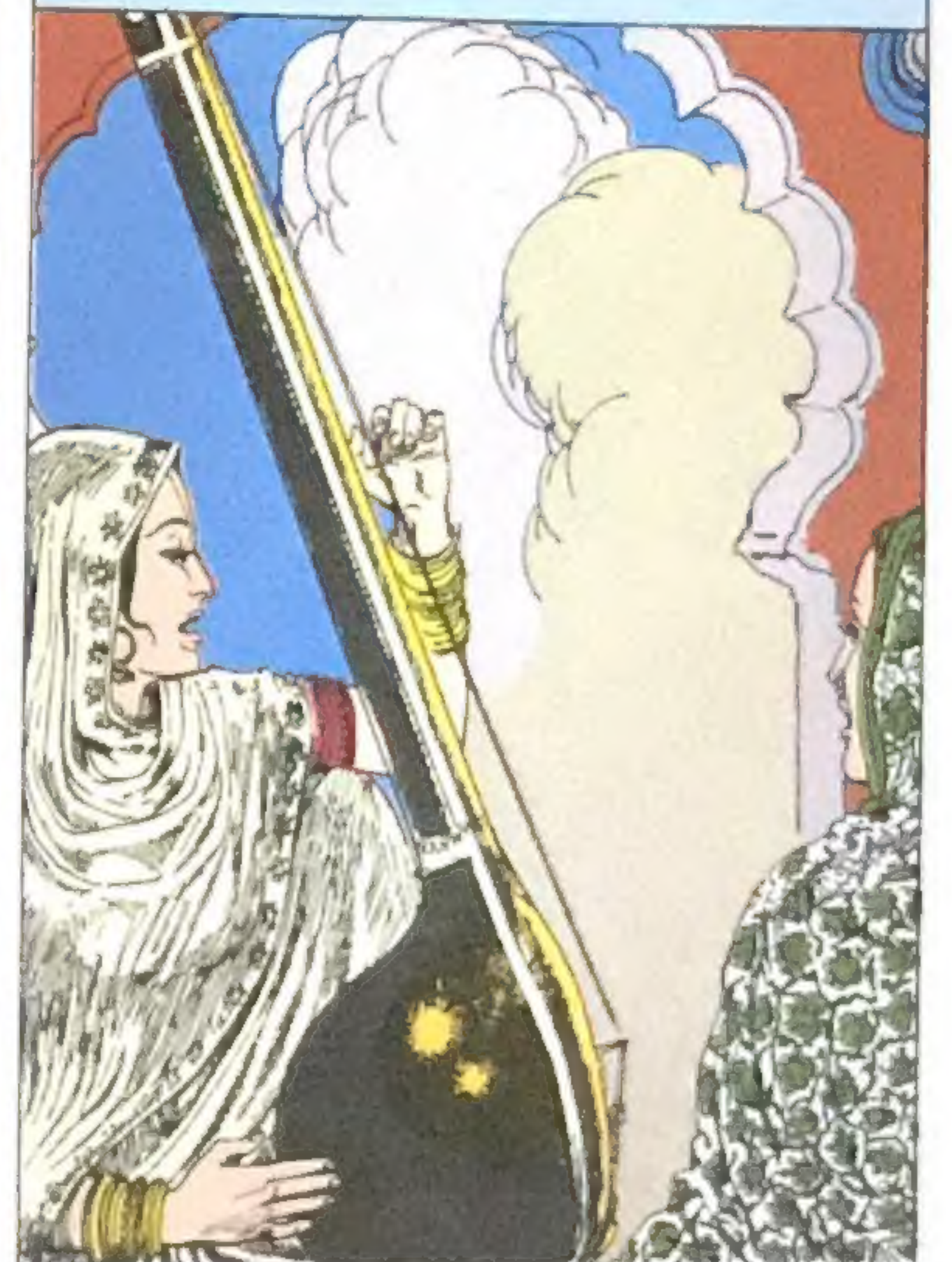
PEOPLE CRIED IN TERROR AS FLAMES SHOT UP EVERYWHERE, AND THE UNLIT LAMPS BURNED BRIGHT.



POSSESSED BY THE GENIUS OF THE RAAG, TANSEN WAS GASPING.



THE GIRLS SANG FRANTICALLY. THE SKY WAS GETTING OVERCAST.



MATCHING THE FURY OF THE FIRE WITH THUNDER, THE RAINS POURED DOWN ON THE PARCHED EARTH. TANSEN RUSHED OUT LIKE ONE POSSESSED.





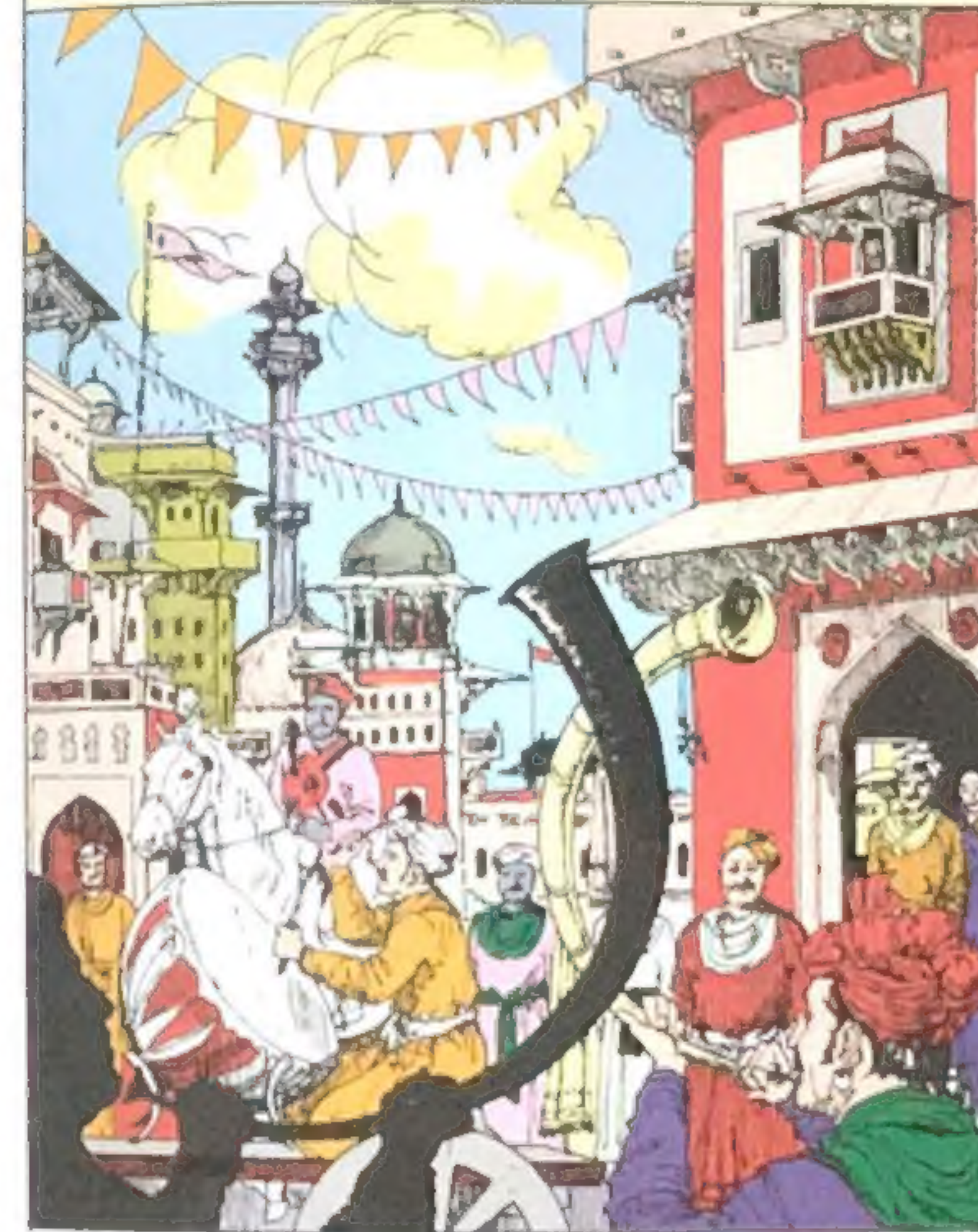
TANSEN LAY SERIOUSLY ILL FOR A MONTH.



THE EMPEROR, GRIEVED BY TANSEN'S PLIGHT, SAT BY HIS BED AND PRAYED FOR HIS RECOVERY.



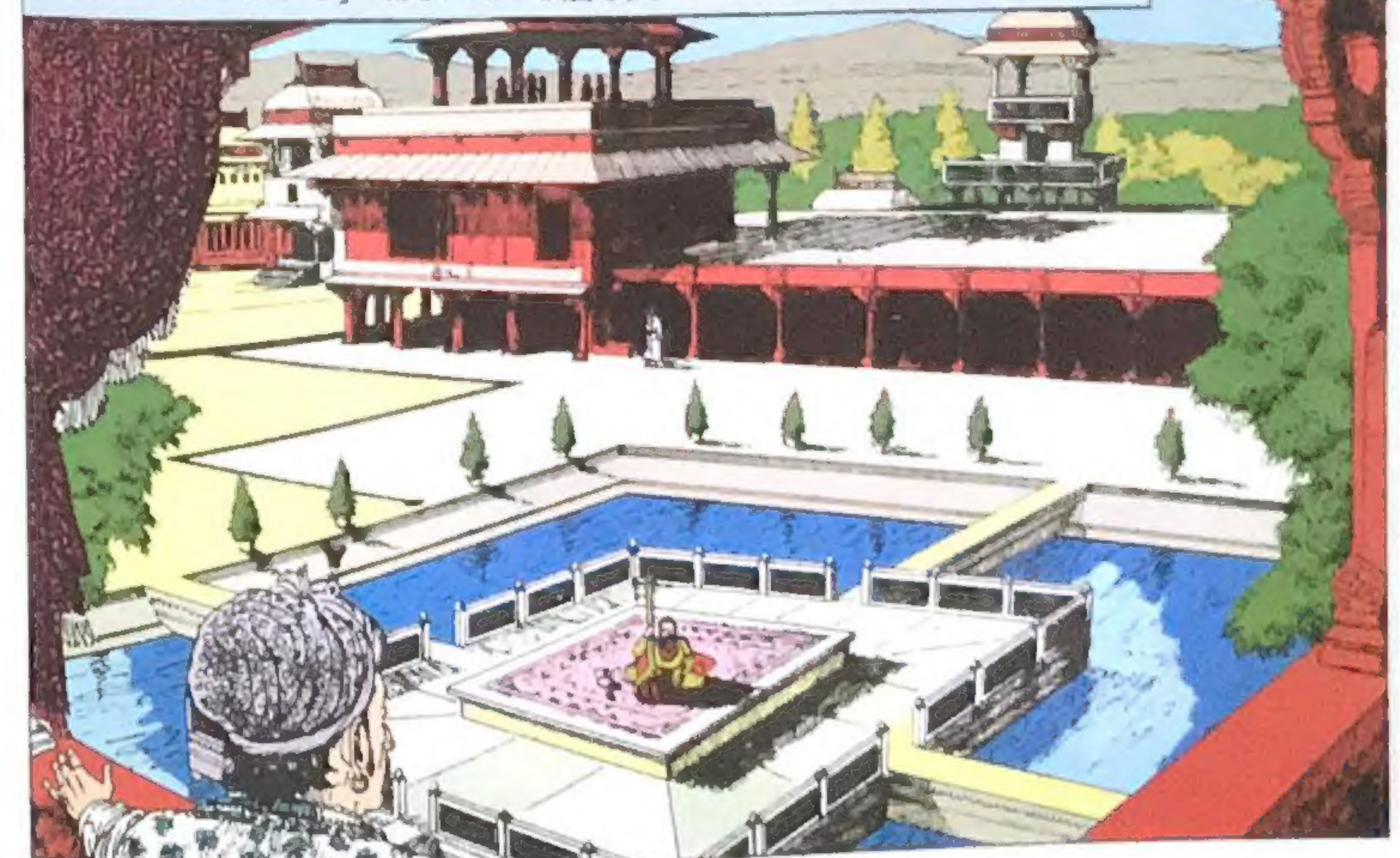
TANSEN RECOVERED; THE CITY REJOICED, GRATEFUL AND ELATED.



THE GUILTY COURTIER'S WERE PUNISHED.

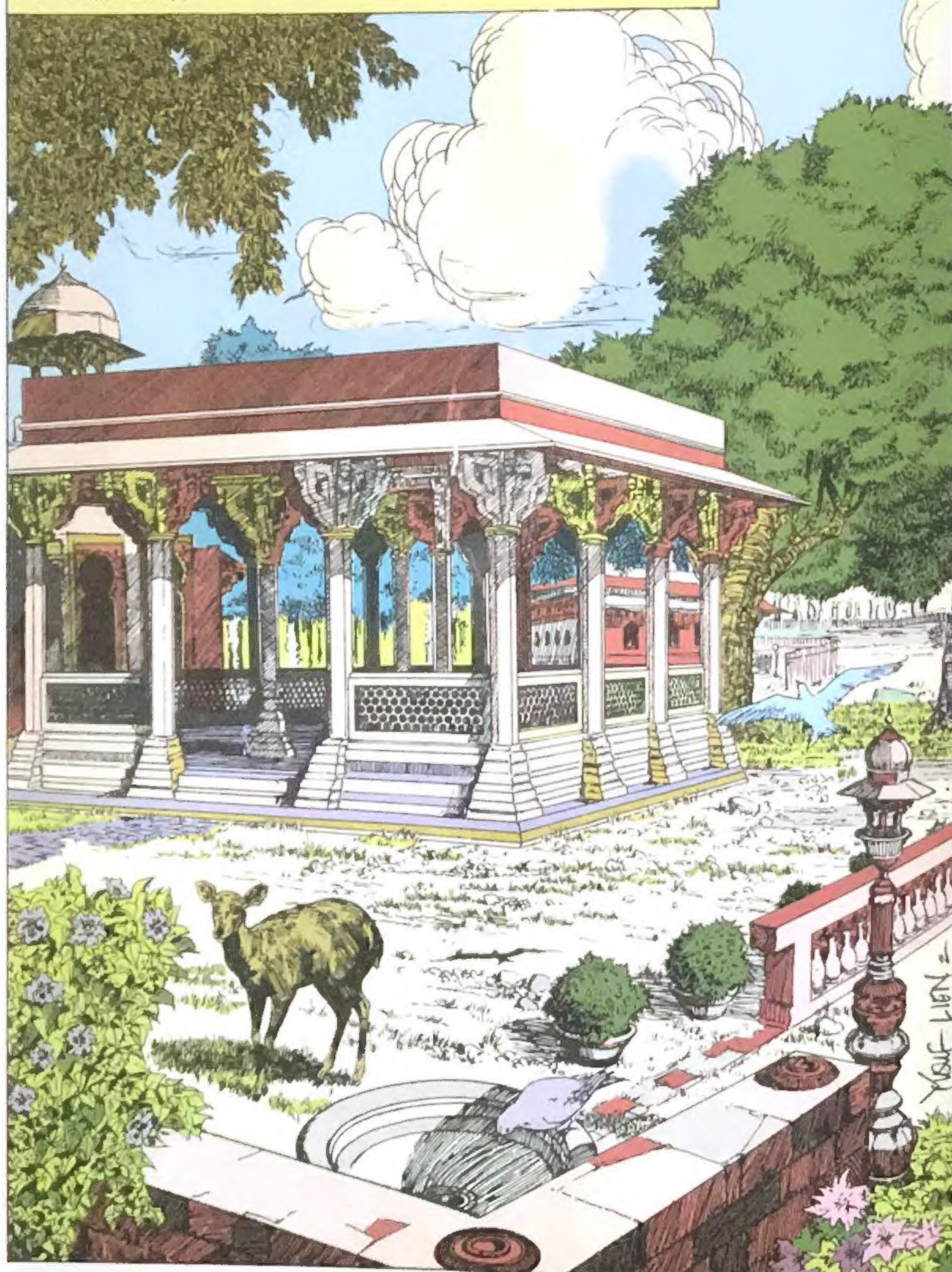


TANSEN SANG FOR MANY YEARS IN AKBAR'S COURT. HE COMPOSED SEVERAL ORIGINAL RAAGS LIKE 'DURBARI KANADA', NICKNAMED 'MIAN TANSEN KA RAAG', 'MIAN KI MALHAR' AND 'DURBARI TODI'.





AFTER A LONG AND PROSPEROUS CAREER IN THE COURT OF AKBAR, TANSEN DIED IN 1585 AND WAS ENTOMBED IN GWALIOR, BUT HIS FAME ENDURES, INSPIRING MUSICIANS AND MUSIC-LOVERS TO THIS DAY.



## WHICH OF THE ACKs HAVE YOU STILL NOT READ?

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